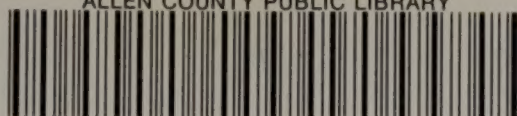


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GRAND MOUNTAIN
TYPEWRITING SCHOOL

Conducted through correspondence

By

JIM PARKER, TECUMSEH, OKLAHOMA

in the interest of

His Nieces and Nephews

—0—

FAMILY HISTORIES

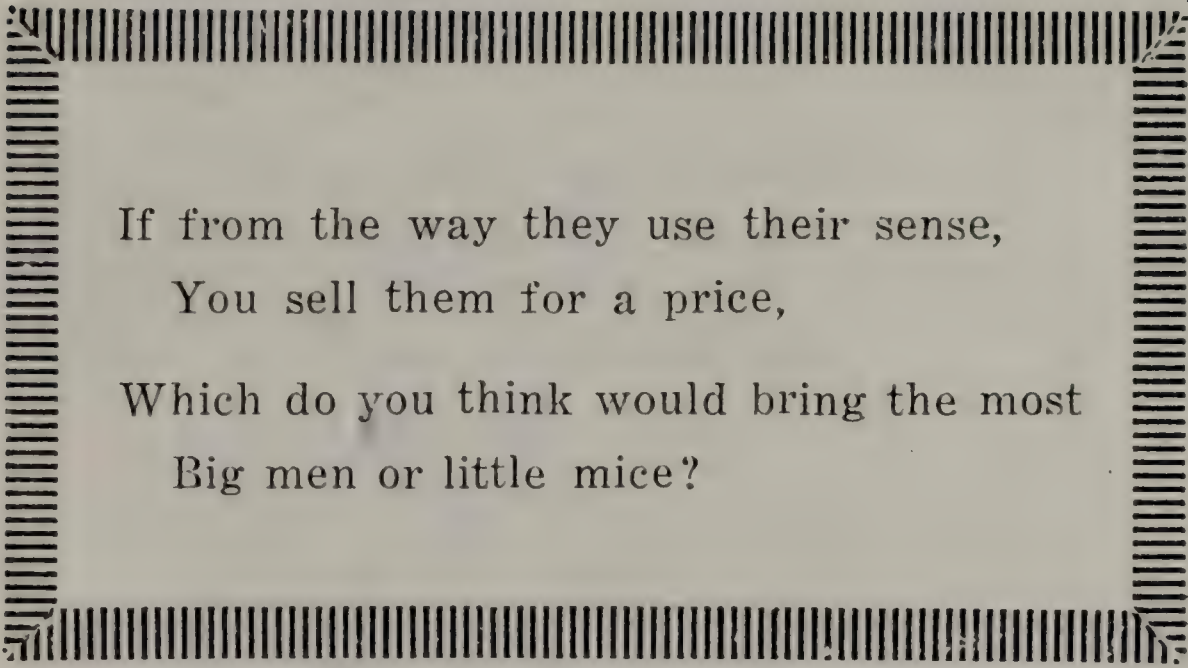
and a record of

HOME STUDY IN THE PARKER FAMILY

DEDICATION

To My Father and my Mother
To my Brothers and my Sisters
To their children and their children's
children and to all who strive for an edu-
cation in order to
better equip themselves for service to the
world

THIS BOOK
is respectfully dedicated in the hope that
it will prove to them a source of
encouragement and inspiration.



If from the way they use their sense,
You sell them for a price,
Which do you think would bring the most
Big men or little mice?

NOTE. I think this was one of the questions for debate around the fireside during our first home school. Often when there was argument in the home, some one would call the house to order and introduce the speakers and there was hot debate. This is the sort of training that learned the Parker boys to think while on their feet.

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Parker and sons 1904

FOREWORD

During Christmas times 1926, my brother Elmer and I sitting in my office, were talking about the home school days of our boyhood. Thinking over these things, it occurred to me that my nieces and nephews might like to learn typewriting. Elmer said he thought if I sent a new typewriter to his home at least two of his children would be glad to study under my instructions. We made up a regular subscription blank and sent out to his children and to Walter Long's children. Four of them subscribed promptly and I sent them typewriters and instruction books in which I penciled the special requirements which in my judgment, were necessary to make them expert typists; and thus, the Grand Mountain Typewriting School had its beginning.

As the lessons came in week by week, I was proud of my school and so wrote a personal letter to each of my nieces and nephews asking them to join the Grand Mountain Typewriting School. They seemed glad of the opportunity and I certainly am pleased to number so many of my kinfolks as my students. It has been a great pleasure each Wednesday morning to go through their lessons and give such instructions as I thought would be helpful.

After the typewriting school was well started and the students doing good work, it occurred to me that in order to encourage them it would be well to publish an annual with pictures of the graduates. As I accumulated these pictures and engravings the idea grew in my mind and has developed into a fairly complete history of the Parker family.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

Not many faces are absent. The separate family histories will be convenient for reference, and I hope draw the ties of love and friendship closer.

Back in my own school days under date of May 27, 1893 I wrote a family history and that history appears in this booklet, with only a few items added to bring down to date. It will be seen that this carries us back to my father's grandparents and my mother's great-grandparents. So far as I know we have all been just common folks, plain, honest, home-loving people, with neither a genius or outstanding leader either for good or evil among us.

There are three subject matters of interest.

First. The Typewriting School with pictures of the graduates.

Second. Separate family histories of all the brothers and sisters and histories of the Parker family reaching back as far as father and mother knew about the family.

Third. Many special items of interest and Special Messages addressed "To those who love me and may pass this way."

Illustrations are as full as we could make them.

Brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews have done much of the work in preparing this book for publication. It has been a great pleasure to help them and I hope that in the years to come, our efforts may encourage others and help them to understand that education is valuable only in so far as it makes us kinder, happier and enables us to better serve our community and add happiness to the lives of those we love. I am hoping that the young folks who may pass this way may learn something from the example of my father and mother.

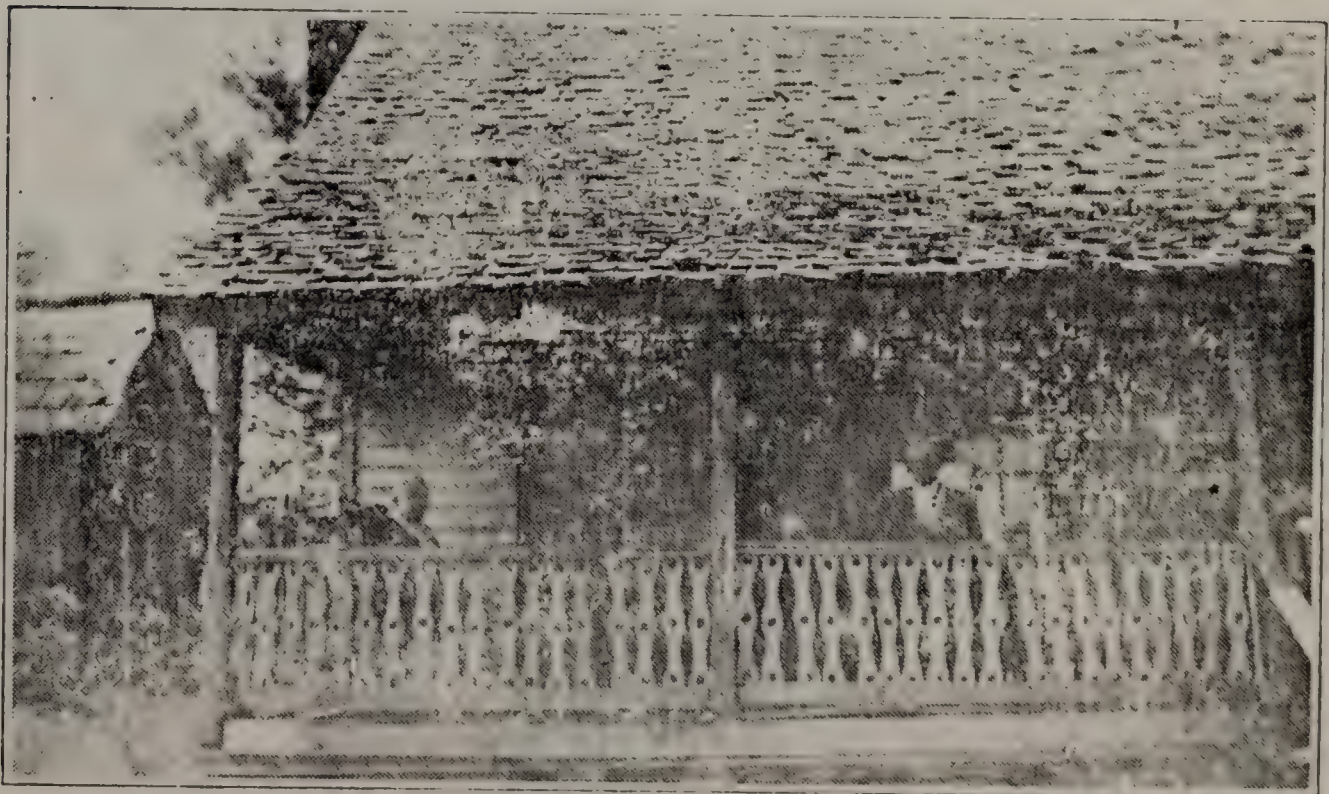
Being alone it has been a great help to me to conduct this school and spend a little money for those I love.

JIM PARKER.

FATHER AND MOTHER PARKER



Up with their work, they have come to-day
To visit with Mary a mile away,
To see the children and say "Hello,"
But the sun declines, so they homeward go
While the peace of the summer eve is bland
With the mellow closing of lives well spent.
Over at home the chickens wait,
A busy cluster beside the gate,
And a burly calf with loud appeal
Impatiently calls for his evening meal.
Old Ribbon, of course, must be watered and fed
And the buggy put in the waiting shed.
Ere long to their journey's end they come
And work in the kitchen begins to hum,
And long before the set of sun
The chores inside and out are done.



Then out on the porch in their easy chairs,
Rested and free from our common cares,
They sit and talk as the moments fly
Of a world to come, of a world gone by.

Walter Long

MY HOME AMONG THE HILLS

O my happy home mid the mountains
Is nearer and dearer to me,
And richer than aught in this wide world
The treasurers it holdeth in fee.
Its streamlets, its valleys, and mountains,
The fragrance that breaths in the air,
And even the flowers and sunshine
Seem sweeter and better by far.

There's a rapturous spell of enchantment
That binds my soul to that spot,
The scenes of bright childhood and laughter,
The dear old family plot.
There youth was all radiant with pleasures,
Not once did my childish heart dream
Of the trials, temptations, and sorrows
That laden life's swift flowing stream.

With brothers and sisters and parents
Those halcyon days were spent,
And comfort, kind words, and affection
With music and laughter were blent.
So clear to my mind are those visions,
I almost imagine I see
The cottage, the orchard, the garden
Where life was so joyous and free.

But O, how I long to be with them!
And bathe my soul in the light
That glows from that family circle
So full of love and delight.
There is nothing else in this wide world
My spirit so gladly doth thrill,
As the thoughts of the haunts of my childhood,
My home far away mid the hills.

JIM—April 4, 1893.

TYPEWRITING SCHOOL

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

Mr. Jim Parker,
President Grand Mountain Typewriting School,
Tecumseh, Oklahoma,

Sir;

In order to become a member of the Grand Mountain Typewriting School, I agree:

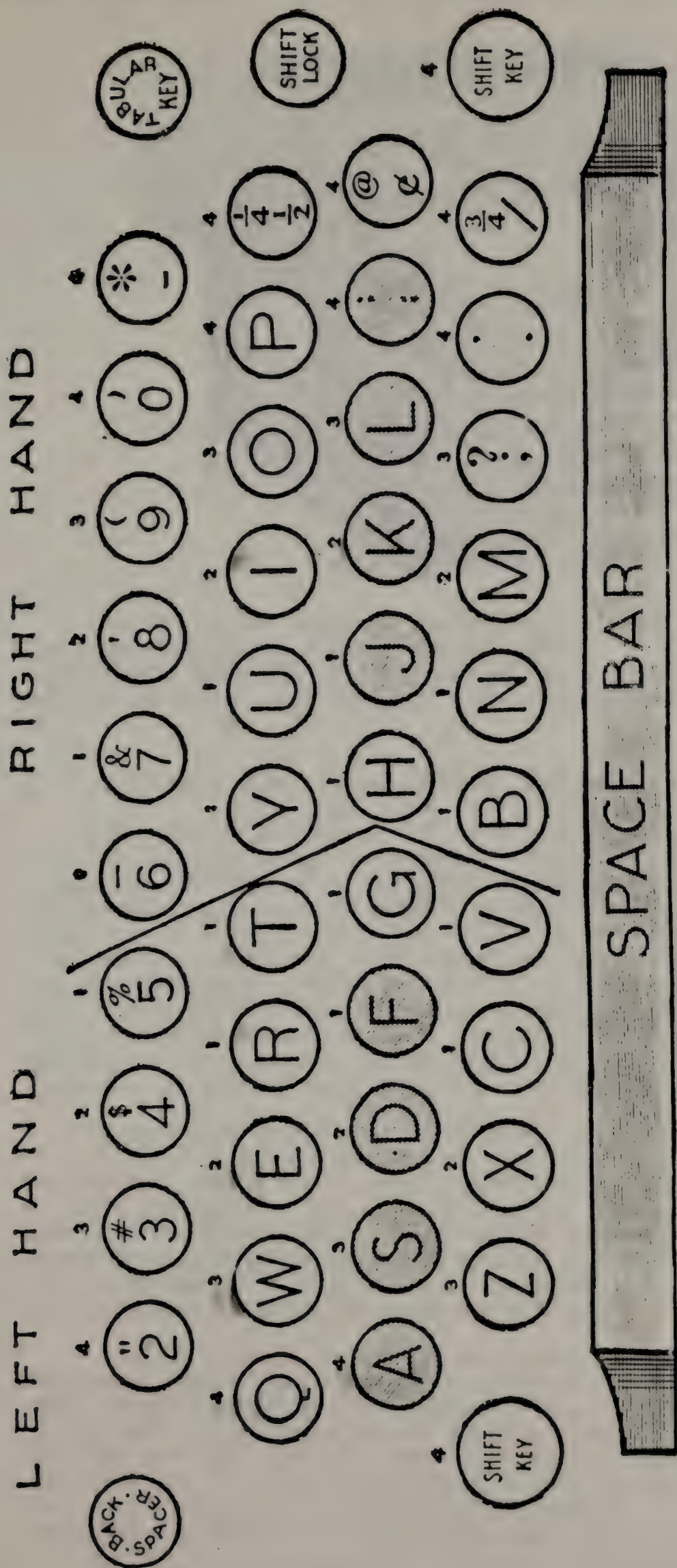
1st. To do as much as one-half hour practice each day five days in the week.

2nd. To make report on Friday evening or Saturday morning of each week of number of hours practiced and mail this report promptly.

3rd. If for any reason I cannot do the work or decide not to continue practice, I will report the fact so that I may be excused or honorably discharged from the school.

Name of student.

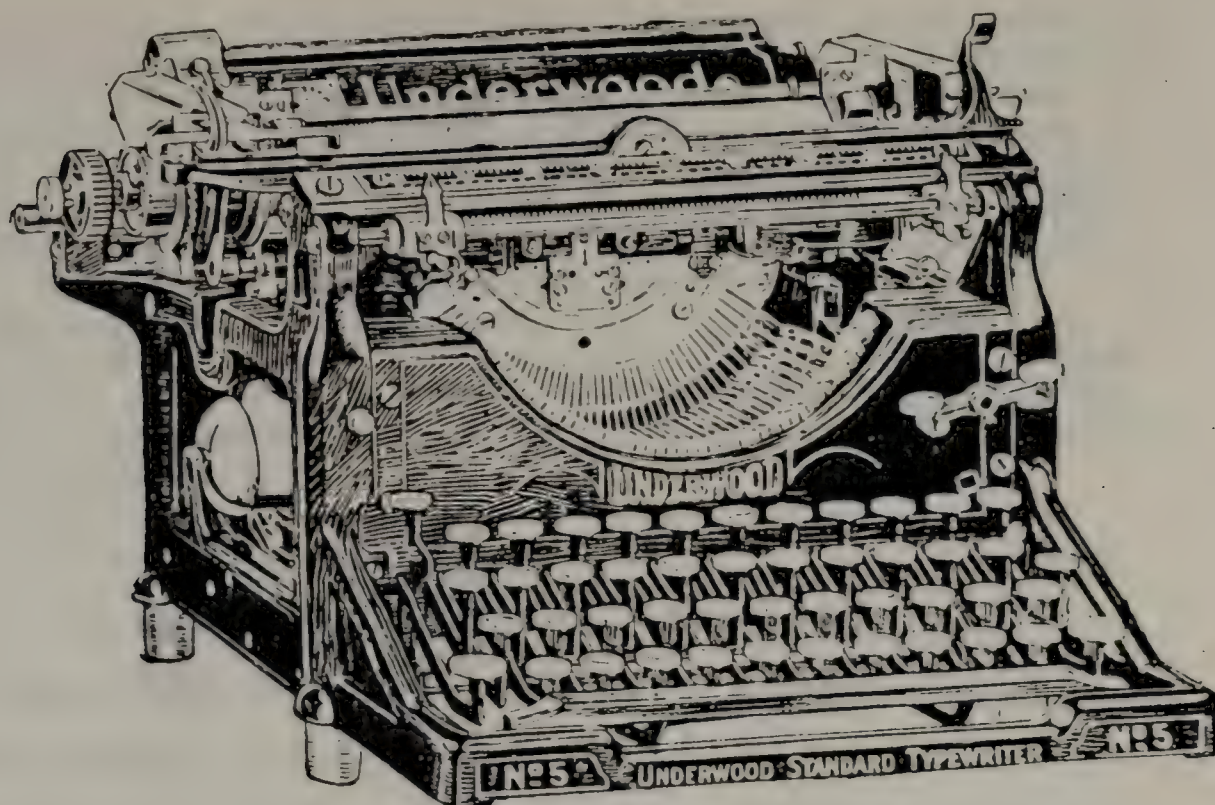
GRADUATES OF THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL



Shaded keys show position of the hands when at rest. The numbers indicate the finger to be used for striking each key. The line means that all to the left are to be struck with the left hand while all to the right are to be struck with the right hand. The space bar is struck with the thumb of the right hand.

HOW THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL WAS CONDUCTED

JIM PARKER, INSTRUCTOR



This typewriter happened to be the one most in use in the family and for that reason was selected for the school. A new machine was sent to each family especially for the use of the students. The same method of instruction would apply equally well in using other typewriters.

How The Typewriting School was Conducted

I planned to publish in this book a copy of the instruction book used with electrotypes in my handwriting showing practice requirement for each lesson but the Underwood Typewriter Company whose book we used would not permit this, so instead of making this book complete enough that others might use it, I can only tell how we did the work. It would make no difference what typewriter or instruction book was used, sufficient practice with the requirement of a large per cent of perfect work would make anyone a good typist. The big fault with most schools is that students are permitted to wander through lessons without doing absolutely perfect work and put on speed practice too soon. The right way to attain high speed is by the requirement of perfect work from the very beginning.

In arranging lessons for home study in typewriting, I kept in mind a few of the underlying principles of methods that would help us in memorizing. If you read a whole page of a book at a time, you do not remember a single sentence, but you can, from a few words build into a sentence and then add another sentence. Much of the time of study in school is lost by going through a large amount of reading or study without giving sufficient time to fix any of it thoroughly in the mind. A half learned thought is merely a burden to the mind and not a help.

I used a common instruction book and after careful study of the book instead of leaving the students to guess at amount of practice required on each lesson, I penciled in directions advising students of amount of work to do on each lesson. On alphabet practice I said "Write 200 times, the last 20 times perfect." On word practice "Write 5 lines of each word, the last line perfect." On sentence practice I said "Write 100 times or more the last 10 times perfect." I insisted that students do no general writing until they had finished the special practice of words and sentences.

The way to make speed is by doing perfect work. When we first com-

HOW THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL WAS CONDUCTED

JIM PARKER, INSTRUCTOR

mence writing long hand, we carefully think of the angles upward and the angles downward and write slowly. practice enables us to write almost unconsciously, and before we become typists, we must practice enough so that the subconscious mind is in control of the fingers. When we have hit the right letter with the right hand 1,000 times, we are not likely to make a mistake, and it is much better to practice the alphabet and word building until our fingers readily touch any kind of a combination than to start trying to write before these things have been learned thoroughly.

Students after going through the book were required to make copy of the book and this finished the final requirement for the course in typewriting except to do copy work from some book which they wished to study. I recommended for our further practice Christ's Sermon on the Mount and following is one of the lessons.

LESSON 1

CHRIST'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Begins Third Verse, Fifth Chapter of Matthew; ends

Twenty-Seventh Verse, Seventh Chapter of Matthew.

Much time is lost in studying because of not properly understanding the way our own minds work. We read too much and remember too little. A fair illustration would be to say that we build thoughts in the mind one by one, just like a brick layer lays bricks to build a great mansion. He lays the brick down one at a time and builds round on top of round until the building is finished. You memorize a few words, develop a sentence, and then add sentences one by one. A single word in a sentence or paragraph helps us by association to remember the whole paragraph. In order that while practicing on the typewriter you may also memorize Christ's Sermon on the Mount, I have selected a key word from each verse. Key words in sentences are shown in bold face type.

KEY WORDS. Write ten or more times, last five perfect.
spirit mourn meek hunger mercy pure peacemakers persecuted revile rejoice

Write each verse ten or more times, the last five perfect; then write a perfect copy of the ten verses.

3 Blessed are the poor in **spirit**; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1 Blessed are they that **mourn**; for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the **meek**; for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do **hunger** and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the **pure** in heart; for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**; for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are **persecuted** for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye when men shall **revile** you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 **Rejoice**, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE GRADUATES OF THE GRAND MOUNTAIN TYPEWRITING SCHOOL

VADA PEARL LONG	Aurora, Arkansas
LYDIA RACHEL LONG	Aurora, Arkansas
MARY DORIS LONG	Aurora, Arkansas
ARLIS EDWIN PARKER	Aurora, Arkansas
LOUIS ELMER PARKER	Aurora, Arkansas
MRS. MARY ERCELLA JONES	Huntsville, Arkansas
Mrs. DONNA LUCILE EVERETT	Huntsville, Arkansas
VIRGIL EUGENE PARKER	Fayetteville, Arkansas
PANSY ELLEN PARKER	Fayetteville, Arkansas
LESTER ERVIN PARKER	Fayetteville, Arkansas
JAMES EDWARD PRICE	Fayetteville, Arkansas
LOLA PEARL PRICE	Fayetteville, Arkansas
GEORGE ORVILLE PRICE	Tecumseh, Oklahoma
MRS. THELMA PRICE	Tecumseh, Oklahoma
JIM PARKER	Tecumseh, Oklahoma
MRS. MARVA HOOPER	Bengal, Oklahoma
OPAL MIZE	Bengal, Oklahoma
MYRL MIZE	Bengal, Oklahoma
JACOB ERVIN PRICE	Detroit, Michigan
MRS. NONA PRICE	Detroit, Michigan
RAY PARKER PRICE	Detroit, Michigan

Note: Ed Price, father of four students, Virgil Parker, Ervin Price, Nona Price were married at the time of subscribing to the school. Ercella Parker, Donna Parker, George Price, and Marva Mize were married after finishing their studies. Thelma (Osborn) commenced study after George Price brought her as his wife to Uncle Jim's home in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Grand Mountain Typewriting School

Tecumseh, Oklahoma

This Certifies that

has completed the course of study prescribed
for the Grand Mountain Typewriting School
and is thereby entitled to this

D i p l o m a

Given on this day of A. D. one
thousand nine hundred twenty-nine,



INSTRUCTOR

JIM PARKER, INSTRUCTOR



VADA PEARL LONG

First graduate of the Grand Mountain Typewriting School.

Best scholar among typewriter graduates.

Began teaching at sixteen years of age.

Has taught six public schools.

Graduate of Huntsville High School 1928.

Freshman in University of Arkansas 1929.

"Climbing a difficult road, but the glory that attends success gives strength for labor."

LYDIA RACHEL LONG

Graduate of the Tecumseh High School 1927
Teacher of one year's' experience.

Taught at Lower Baldwin, 1928.

Freshman in University of Arkansas 1929.

"Knowledge is but one of her many gifts."



GRADUATES OF THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL



MARY DORIS LONG

A teacher of two years' experience. She taught both terms at Farril's Creek, 1927 and 1928.

Graduate of Huntsville High School 1929.

"Her gentle speech and modest ways Cause others to accord her praise."

MARY ERCELLA (PARKER) JONES

She married Lem Jones of Huntsville, Arkansas May 13, 1928.

A teacher of two years' experience.

She taught at Liberty in 1927 and at Henderson's Creek in 1928.

"In musical art she is widely known; Her beauty and grace are clearly shown."



JIM PARKER, INSTRUCTOR



DONNA LUCILE (PARKER) EVERETTE

She married Hill Everett of Huntsville, Arkansas, September 16, 1928.

A teacher of two years experience.

She taught at Henderson's Creek in 1927 and at Concord in 1928.

"Love is success,
Love is happiness,
Love is life."

ARLIS EDWIN PARKER

He completed the eighth grade at Aurora, Arkansas, 1928.

"Always heard before seen."

"The boy who brushes his hair
In order to make the maidens stare."



GRADUATES OF THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL



LOUIS ELMER PARKER

Seventh grade pupil at Aurora, Arkansas, 1928.

He is the youngest graduate of the Grand Mountain Typewriting School.

The bunch was about evenly divided in opinion as to whether Louis at twelve or Ed Price at forty-seven would be the best student. Louis won.

JACOB ERVIN PRICE

Graduate of the Greenland High School 1925.

MARRIED NONA DOT GRIM,
of Berryville, Arkansas, December 26, 1925.

They and their son, Billy, live in Detroit, Michigan, where Ervin is employed by the Fisher Body Co.

"Our work shall still be
better for our love,
And still our love be
better for our work."



JIM PARKER, INSTRUCTOR



RAY PARKER PRICE

Graduate of the University High School, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Has employment now in Detroit, Michigan, with the Hudson Motor Company.

"He is good without pretense,
List with plain reason and
Sober sense."

GEORGE ORVILLE PRICE

Graduate from Greenland High School, 1928.

Married

THELMA LUCILLE OSBORN

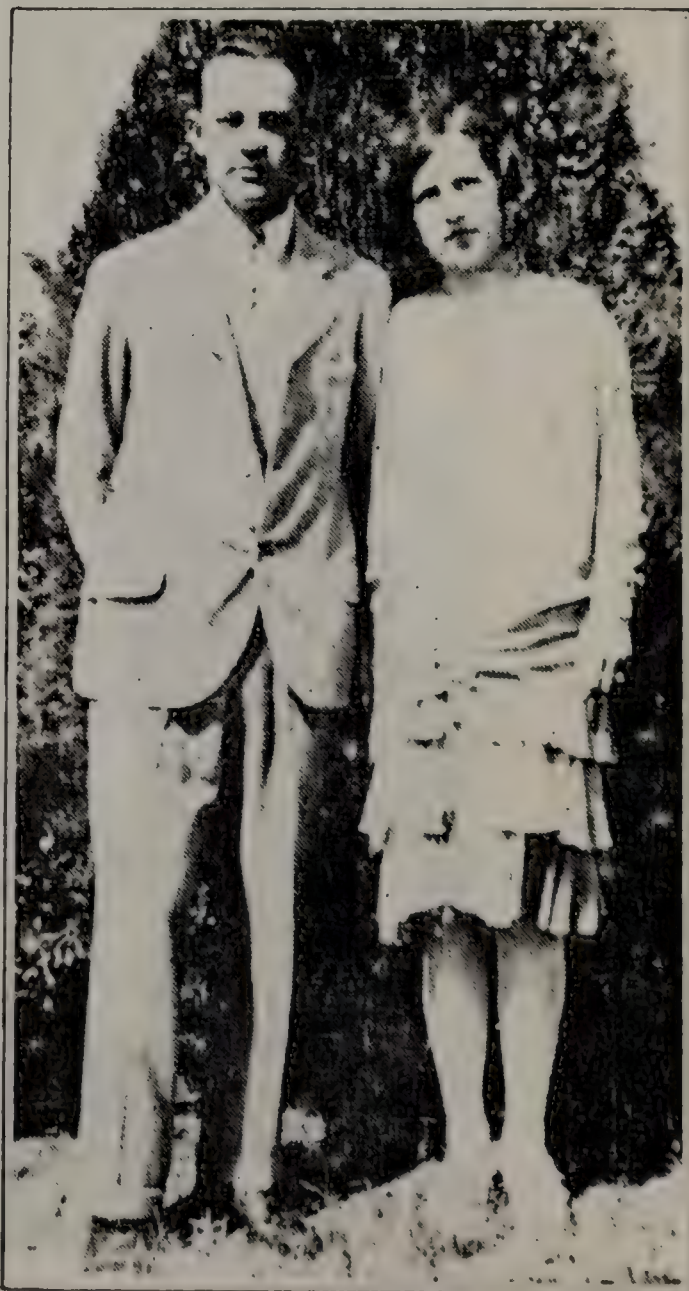
October 13, 1928

Graduate of Winslow High School, 1926.

A teacher of two years experience being primary teacher at Greenland when she and George met.

They are now living in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

"They believe in love and unity,
Hard work and opportunity."



GRADUATES OF THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL



LOLA PEARL PRICE

Completed the ninth grade at Fayetteville High School, 1929.

Member of the basketball team. Winner in 75 yard dash, basket ball throw and second in 50 yard dash.

"She has a clear eye and a
winning way,
And a tongue that is going the
live long day."

JAMES EDWARD PRICE

A teacher of two years' experience, a hard working nurseryman, and father of four of the graduates.

Lives with his family in Fayetteville, Ark.

Everybody's friend,
Nobody's enemy.



JIM PARKER, INSTRUCTOR



VERDA BELLE CASEY

Completed the eighth grade at Flat Rock, Arkansas, 1926.

A girl who has pleasing ways and
admired by all.

VIRGIL EUGENE PARKER ----

Member of the John M. Parker
and Son Nursery of Fayetteville,
Arkansas.

Married Marie Feathers of Fayetteville. They and their son Eugene live on a farm near Fayetteville.

Because he does not talk is no sign
he does not have anything to say.



GRADUATES OF THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL



PANSY ELLEN PARKER

Junior in Fayetteville High School—Glee Club

"A pretty little girl with
dainty ways

And singing ability that
always pays."



LESTER ERVIN PARKER

Completed the ninth grade in Fayetteville High School 1929.

"He is wise and playful but
who ever saw him study!"

So agreed his father and fellow students, but his Uncle Jim said; "Just the same he is a real student. At thirteen years of age he made as good progress in typewriting as the older students."

JIM PARKER, INSTRUCTOR



MARVA (MIZE) HOOPER

A teacher of two years' experience. Both terms were taught at Cochran, near Dutton, Franklin County, Arkansas.

She married Robert Hooper of Dutton, Arkansas, 1929.

"She builded a rosy castle in the air
And its corner stone was a solitaire."

OPAL MIZE

Honor student of the Grand Mountain Typewriting School.

She is studying telegraphy.

"Sincere, earnest, and lighthearted;
Loved by all who know her."



GRADUATES OF THE TYPEWRITING SCHOOL



MYRL MIZE

Completed the eighth grade at Bengal, Oklahoma, 1929.

"She is pretty,
She is witty,
To say more would be a pity."

JAMES ERVIN PARKER

Graduate of Fort Smith Commercial College
1893.

A teacher of four years' experience.

Graduate of American Landscaping School
1919.

Founder of the Grand Mountain Typewriting
School.

"A bank of credit on which we can draw
supplies of confidence, counsel, sympathy,
help, and love."



HOME STUDY IN THE PARKER FAMILY



PARKER FAMILY AT THE TIME OF FIRST HOME SCHOOL

By JOHN M. PARKER

In the fall of 1889 at the breakfast table Father said, "Children, your Ma and I have been talking about it and have decided that if you want to study at home this winter you may have the north room with regular hours to study." We children talked it over and accepted the opportunity. This was the beginning of the home study habit in the Parker family.

Life was full of joys at the time the above picture was made. The school bell rang promptly at eight o'clock. Four of us could play the organ and school was always opened with a song. Our parents were extremely happy when they looked in and saw their family of boys and girls all studying hard and trying their best to prepare for a better and more useful life. The sound of Father's hammer mending shoes and the hum of Mother's spinning wheel were frequently heard while we were reciting our lessons one to another.

We had four study periods of one and one-half hours with regular recesses morning noon and evening. Jim, being the oldest, was really the principal of our school; and in those days, as well as forty years later, was a real student. He was my instructor and I always recited my lessons to him. When Jim thought he had his lessons well he gave his book to me

HOME STUDY IN THE PARKER FAMILY

and I heard him recite. Jim and I usually heard Ella's and Zadah's recitations and they did their part of the teaching by hearing a part of the lessons of George, Mary, and Grace. The plan, as we worked it out, was for each of us to hear recitations from students in grades just below us. In this way no time was lost as it served as a review for the teacher. We usually required almost perfect work in recitation. The teacher taking the book had the student stand and make a satisfactory explanation of the lesson without going through the form of asking and answering questions. The harder problems were taken direct to Jim.

In the three months of school there was never a time when our study hours were interfered with to help in the house or on the farm. Father's statement, "Your Ma and I have decided to let you have regular hours for study," was strictly adhered to. There were many times when our studies took up part of our time after school hours but never a time when we were not permitted to study what was then considered a school day of six hours.

The next year we had another three months term on the same plan during which time we accomplished what is now considered a year's work in school. Jim bought Ficklin's Arithmetic which covered a year's work at the University and solved every problem during the term.

That the idea of home study has remained in the family is proven by the school among the children of these first pupils, and by the typewriting school.

In those days brother Jim had dreams of being a poet and this is the way he described our school.

OUR HOME SCHOOL

In our little school at our humble home,
Just seven scholars are we;
We are trying to learn from our school books
How hereafter to useful be.

We are borthers and sisters of one happy home,
We have no teacher we say,
But assist one another in trying to learn
How to be useful some day.

But, dear ones, ere long we'll be scattered from home
And "School time" with us will be o'er;
In distant country some of us may roam,
While others on earth are no more,

But wherever we are or whither we roam,
When this life of toil is o'er,
May we all in a happy and heavenly home
Gather on the eternal shore.

Oh! when I think of the school time of youth
Of this fact it reminds me,
This world is the great training school of life
To prepare for a world to be.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



From holes in the bluffs where the dogs treed we boys twisted out rabbits. The large rocks near the bluffs served as ideal places for play-houses and picnics.

FURTHER CHRONICLES OF STUDENTS OF OUR HOME SCHOOL

BY JOHN PARKER

Though I was of the sort that always believed in play more than in hard work or study, through Jim's encouragement I finally took an examination and got a third grade, taught three months of school at twenty-five dollars per month, paid four dollars a month for board, and during the term bought a real good blue serge suit, paying ten dollars cash. This took twenty-two dollars of the seventy-five dollars earned in three months, leaving a balance of fifty-three dollars, which was mostly applied in meeting general family expenses.

The following winter we had another term of our home school and I made a good second grade. I taught a three months school, then decided I could make more selling nursery stock. Father at this time had about twenty thousand apple grafts and Jim and I started out canvassing on foot. I remember selling Joe Whittemore a forty dollar order and Father and Jim agreed with me that this was the biggest deal ever pulled. I was very proud of my salesmanship though it

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

took me a number of years to pick up enough courage to enter a nice home with paint on the walls.. (If John's reputation for absolute honesty was not so well established some of us who know him well would be inclined to doubt the last statement.) I had seen but two buggies, never heard of a car, telephone or phonograph, and had never heard of many more of the things we now think it impossible to live without. Regardless of these facts we were as happy and got by just as well as we do now.

The girls in those days wore their dresses down to their shoe tops and were very careful to see that no one knew the shape of their ankles. The wearing of silk stockings at that time would have been a sheer waste of good money. They also wore a big roll on their backs just filling in nicely from hip to hip, and they were very much embarrassed should company come before they had said sack of bran in place. I have seen them equally dismayed when the string holding the bustle gave way as they started from church and dropped the roll by their escort's side. "Oh! for a piece of whipcord."

Sister Ella, hardly two years younger than I secured a position as assistant teacher in the school brother Jim was teaching.

Sister Zadah, next in age, married first of all and moved to a farm.

Mary acquired a good common school education and married a school teacher rather early in life. Their impressions of the value of home study caused them to assist their girls in their home school and they have good cause to be proud of their efficient daughters.

Grace, our youngest sister, kept impressing the value of home study on her three oldest boys and they are all graduates of modern high schools and are making good. Grace has three young girls at home and sees that they improve their spare moments in home study.

Elmer, who at the time of our early home schools, was too small to study with us, had the advantages of better public schools and acquired a good common school education. After he married and his two oldest girls were large enough to study you could step into his home and quite frequently find him giving lessons on the blackboard to his children. The oldest daughters are now progressive school teachers and strong advocates of home study. Elmer and Mildred are now insisting that their two boys keep up the home study habit.

I do not know the amount of home study George's only daughter has done but I do know that, passing through the grades and the high school, she has recently graduated from the University of Arkansas.

Jim has never lost the habit of home study. Through independent research he has made himself an authority in the Horticultural world while his ability as a speaker to present the results of his investigations has made him a favorite on the programs of national conventions.

In my own family, especially with my oldest children, I supplemented the work of the public schools by frequent courses in home study and my two oldest girls became successful teachers. I later moved to Fayetteville where my younger children are finishing their education, and regardless of what the schools can do for them I shall probably not be satisfied until I have added a few personal touches.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



AURORA

'Mid scenes of rustic grandeur
The quiet village stands,
Recipient of all blessings
That beautify the land;
Girt round by rugged mountains
That fortify the dell,
Lies happy, calm, Aurora town
Mid haunts I love so well.

Its citizens are happy,
They lead a quiet life
Free from the vain ambition
That mars a city life;
Although some people grumble
Because of little wealth,
We have a heritage supreme.
A blessed treasure, health.

Three bouncing, brawny blacksmiths
Are busy every day,
With all their might from morn till night
They dash the sparks away;
For all the Country 'round about
It but one doctor takes,
But it takes three brisk tool-doctors
To keep our tools in shape.

High up upon Grand Mountain,
Just one mile east of town,
Is Parker and Son's nursery,
But ah! just look around;
You'll find the soil quite fertile
To give each toil its meed,
And lavish ample plenty
To keep us all from need.

Jim Parker, November 1891

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



This picture shows a group of cousins on a holiday excursion.

The streams, springs, caves, bluffs, and large rocks of the hills made an ideal playground and the cousins enjoyed nothing more than to roam through the woods exploring caves, climbing over steep bluffs and rocks. They often pretended to be real explorers or Indians as they followed the small streams through enticing tangles of wild blackberry and gooseberry vines or as they picked the fruit of the wild huckleberry bushes and the wild plum tree. There were always tadpoles in the small quiet pools and contests to see who could catch the most for their private pools were accompanied by much splashing and dashing of water. Fragile bark and leaf ships were watched as they went over treacherous rapids.

In the spring the wild flowers were eagerly gathered. In the autumn the fruit of the black haw, the frosted persimmons and the many kinds of nuts furnished an excellent excuse for a merry trip into the woods. With the first snow steep hills furnished splendid coasting places and the fun of the swift descent was only increased by an occasional tumble into the snow, and snow men sprang up suddenly from the fields.

To the eyes of cousins the woods are not destitute of dwelling houses for as they pass through them they see the playhouse where many happy hours were spent visiting back and forth with one another.

All these and many other activities of the cousins are pleasant memories.

COUSINS IN HOME SCHOOL



Teacher: Velma Long; Front: Edith Parker, Pansy Parker, Arlis Parker. Back: Velma Long, Ercella Parker, Clela Parker, Dorris Long, George Price Ervin Price, Ottis Parker, Pauline Parker, Ray Price, Verna Long, Lydia Long, Donna Parker.

Here's another mountain school
Full of life and fun,
From the largest to the least
Cousins every one.

This is a picture of another group of home school pupils. It was taught at the home of Walter Long by his oldest daughter Velma. The school was very exclusive as only cousins could attend. All of them lived on Grand Mountain and, including the teacher, numbered fifteen. The children learned rapidly and enjoyed themselves thoroughly while the ties of cousinly affection strengthened.

This school was so unusual that this picture, accompanied by a short sketch, was printed in the Arkansas Gazette.

It will be seen by this that the idea of home study was not discarded by the second generation of Parker descendants, but resulted in an even larger attendance and that, after availing themselves of the educational help given by the state in five and six month terms of public school, they were glad to supplement it by spending a few weeks in home study.

Four of the first school were teachers; Jim, John, Ella, and George. One daughter-in-law, Mary Long Parker, and two of the sons'-in-law, Walter Long and J. E. Price were teachers.

At the present time eight of the grandchildren have taught; Eula and Chlora Parker, Ercella and Donna Parker, and Velma, Vada, Lydia and Doris Long.

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW IN ARKANSAS

BY JIM PARKER

The first law embodying the principals of the public schools did not originate in the Old World, but was first put in force in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in New England where each unit of fifty families was required to provide a free school for its children.

So essential is an intelligent electorate considered to be in safeguarding our liberties that our national government has donated 86,138,433 acres of land for the support of education. This acreage is three times that of the state of Arkansas.

The people of Arkansas were perhaps as progressive as the people of Massachusetts but conditions were different. Surrounded by savage tribes of Indians they were forced to live in villages where the children could be easily assembled. In Arkansas this menace did not exist and the institution of slavery caused the plantations to be large and widely separated. Also it was peopled by the freest of the free, pioneer descendants of English, French, Irish, Scotch, and German pioneers who had conquered the wilderness stretching from the Atlantic coast to the western foothills of the Ozarks. They were men whose strong muscles and keen minds unaided by bookish lore had been able to wrest support from any environment.

It was not until several years after the Civil War that a system of public schools were established in Arkansas. To support these schools the state levied a general tax of two mills and each district at the annual school meeting could vote a local tax not exceeding five mills. A divergence of views regarding the fairness of this local tax resulted in hotly contested elections. Some of the richer men felt that they should not be called upon to help educate the other man's children. Some of the poorer men held the same belief or did not believe an education necessary. Until very recently these sentiments caused some districts to vote "No tax," and for a number of years where voted it seldom exceeded three mills.

Three month terms beginning in July were the rule. The first schoolhouses were usually made of logs with earthen or puncheon floors and with seats made of split logs supported by wooden legs inserted in large holes bored in the rounded side of the logs. No equipment was furnished. Few rooms had heating facilities. Among the arguments advanced for having the schools begin in July was that the term would end before cold weather. Webster's Blue Back Speller, Ray's Arithmetic, McGuffey's Readers, Quackenbos' History, and Montieiths' Geography, with an occasional grammar were the usual texts. Slates, with their flag-wrapper slate pencils took the place of tablets and lead pencils. In the selection of books each district was a law unto itself.

Sentiment has changed since those days and now few people object to being taxed. Instead of the state's contribution to each district one dollar per pupil for the support of free schools it now contributes over five dollars each year. A local tax of eighteen mills may be levied and I know of no district in this county which has failed to vote school tax and a large per cent of them have voted the maximum of eighteen mills. Each teacher is required to show that he is advancing educationally by securing at least one-half credit each year for high school or college work done. There is

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW IN ARKANSAS

a state wide adoption of texts. Better lighting and heating facilities, and some equipment are found in almost every school. Libraries are being installed.

The first school that I attended was a subscription school taught by Henry Reynolds in a little log cabin near the McConnel Spring. In those days it was seldom that any child had an opportunity to go to school for more than three months in a year. Mother taught me my A B C's and to read a little in the first reader. Dovie and Dora started to their first school at the same time, and though only seven and nine years of age carried the fifth reader as their text book.

In Arkansas at that time free schools were just being established and were meeting opposition. Teachers were poorly qualified as a rule and the salary was from twenty to thirty dollars per month. In that day farm wages were fifty cents per day and that was thought sufficient.

In 1890 I taught Concord School three months for twenty dollars a month and Henderson Creek School three months for the same salary. In 1891 I taught the Ogden School three months for twenty-five dollars a month. In 1892, carrying a first grade certificate, I was enabled to draw the top wage of thirty dollars for four months where the attendance averaged about sixty.

In one respect, in our county districts, society has retrograded since my boyhood days. Then you seldom went into a home where a Bible showing constant use was not displayed. The country pulpits were abundantly supplied with preachers. In most of the schoolhouses four denominations worshipped once each month. I remember by name nine local preachers living within three miles of Aurora. They labored in the common pursuits of life during the week and on the Sabbath day occupied a pulpit as religious leaders of their community. They were all fervent in the faith. Doctrinal debates were common.

Conditions have changed. A drive put on to supply an educated ministry trained in college carried with it the idea that no one but a college man was fit for the ministry and that no one should be employed in the ministry who did not earn his support in that way. As a result of this country preachers have been growing scarcer. The type of man that felt that on the farm or in the store he could work six days a week and on the Sabbath day be a religious leader in his community is almost a thing of the past. His fervent eloquence, speaking from a heart of faith is seldom heard. The Bible was his only book and to him God was real. His soul was in harmony with the souls of the people he served. His place cannot be filled by the so-called educated ministers or missionaries put out to-day by the colleges, for they are not in sympathy either in work or thought with the country people.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Rachel Partlow Parker

Lewis Ervin Parker

Father and Mother as we knew and loved them. For 63 years they shared the joys and sorrows of life together. As they approached the setting sun, their voices grew softer and the light of love showed more and more in their faces.

Memories of Grandfather and Grandmother Parker

By their affectionate grand daughter, Vada Long

Memories of Grandfather and Grandmother Parker are woven through my entire life. The first time I went visiting by myself I went to see them. When I first heard a girl at school mention her grandmother I was incredulous for I believed I had the only grandfather and grandmother in the world. When forced to believe that she really had a grandmother I still refused to even imagine her grandmother as being anything like so fine as mine. This impression of the excellence of my grandparents has not been changed by time.

As they grew older they were ever ready to talk of the days of their youth, and some of the most enjoyable hours of my life have been spent listening to them. Believing that these incidents will be of interest to younger generations and to those who had not my opportunity of listening to them I shall try to write them here.

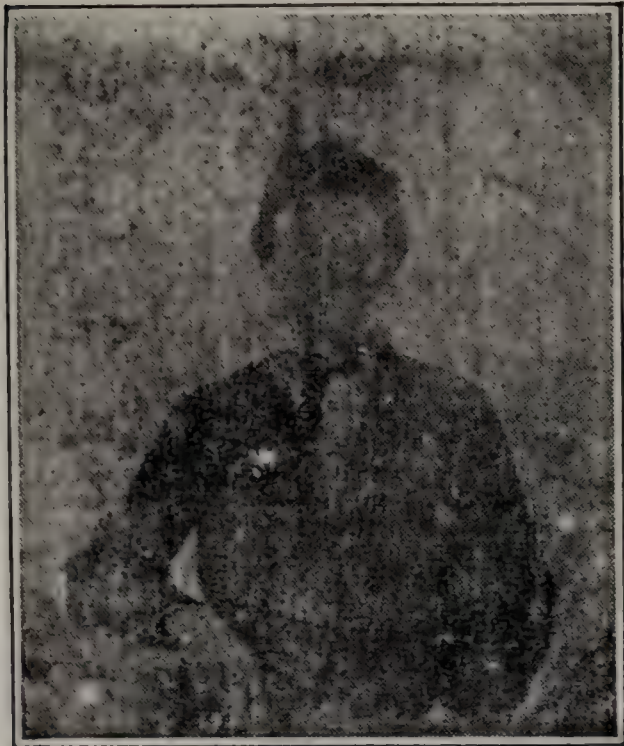
Grandfather often told of his memories of the home in Tennessee, the woods that separated their home from that of his grandmother Cherry, and the cowbell which his mother fastened around his neck in order to keep him located, for he frequently ran away and went to see his grandmother.

Grandfather was always a peace loving man and said he had only two fights when he was a boy. He was the oldest child and had to go to school by himself. The pupils sat on puncheon benches and read and spelled aloud for it was a "loud" school. "And there I had my first fight," grandfather would say. "The older boys found a yellow jacket nest and were standing around looking at it when I walked up and said, 'I can whip them out.'" Then he got a big brush and went after them. "But they were too many for me," he said.

The other fight was with a larger boy who had promised him an apple if he would go a piece of the way home with him. Grandfather went and when he claimed his reward the boy refused to give it to him. This time Grandfather was successful and got his apple.

Grandmother went to a school similar to the one grandfather first attended except that it was not a "loud" school. Her only punishment was for laughing. She, a very small girl, had to sit on a bench with a large boy, and felt very much humiliated by it. She showed me the Harvey's Grammar which she received as a prize for saying the most poems in a contest. She remembered many of these and often recited them for us.

FATHER AND MOTHER PARKER



Lewis Parker
17 years of age



Rachel Albright
17 years of age

Engravings for these pictures of Father and Mother were made from tintypes about 65 years old.



In the fall of 1889 at the breakfast table Father said "Children your Ma and I have been talking about it and have decided that if you want to study at home this winter you may have the north room for a school room with regular hours to study." We children talked it over and accepted the opportunity and for three months our school bell rang promptly and not once were our study hours interfered with. This was the beginning of the home study habit in the Parker family.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

Grandmother told of the trip from North Missouri to the farm near Mount Vernon. When grandfather Albright reached his farm the family occupying the house continued to live in part of it for a few weeks. Grandmother would take her knitting into the room with the woman, a widow, and sit and talk with her. Thus she was when Grandfather first saw her. He had come in with the widows son, and when they left the house he said to the boy, "I like the looks of that girl.. Who knows but what she will one day be my wife?"

Grandmother was strikingly handsome, so grandfather said, and all the ooys were immediately eager for her company. Near the Albright farm lived a wealthy family, Smith by name. Two of the young men one day sat in the woodyard talking when grandfather came by. The elder was telling the younger that it did not look well for brothers to be going with the same girl and asking him to quit. As the discussion was waxing hot grandfather said, "I guess I'll go with her myself." This idea was funny to the prosperous Smiths.

In a few weeks the Smiths' had a "singing" at their home. Young people came from miles around through the biting cold to this welcome diversion. After the singing was over, while the visitors were putting on their wraps, the eldest Smith arose, put on his overcoat, muffler, gloves, and held his fur-lined cap in his hand as he turned by the fire, warming himself. Grandfather said he was in no hurry about putting his coat on but waited until grandmother was ready to go. Then he asked and received permission to take her home. Here grandmother always laughd and told how funny Smith looked, bundled up and warming himself by his own fire.

Their courtship was a short one, for grandmother also had felt that the sight of grandfather satisfactorily settled her questions as to her future help-meet. In about six months after their first meeting grandfather took his bride to the new log cabin near the home of his step-mother. Grandmother stood under the mark grandfather had made years before showing how tall his Princess Charming must be and she exactly filled the measure.

Thus they began their married life which lasted over sixty-three years. During these years together they proved themselves worth-while citizens and examples of a happy union. They were the acknowledged religious leaders of the community for over forty years. Grandfather served as Sunday School superintendent until he was over eighty years old, and talked at funerals for a year or two longer. Grandmother

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

taught a Sunday School class for years. They drove to church in their buggy until the summer of 1928.

In church they never missed an opportunity of testifying to the goodness and grace of the Lord. As they told of the joys of a Christian life and pleaded for the salvation of their neighbors and friends their hearers, knowing that their lives so beautifully portrayed the kind of life made possible through devotion to God, felt that Heaven was nearer and dearer than ever before.

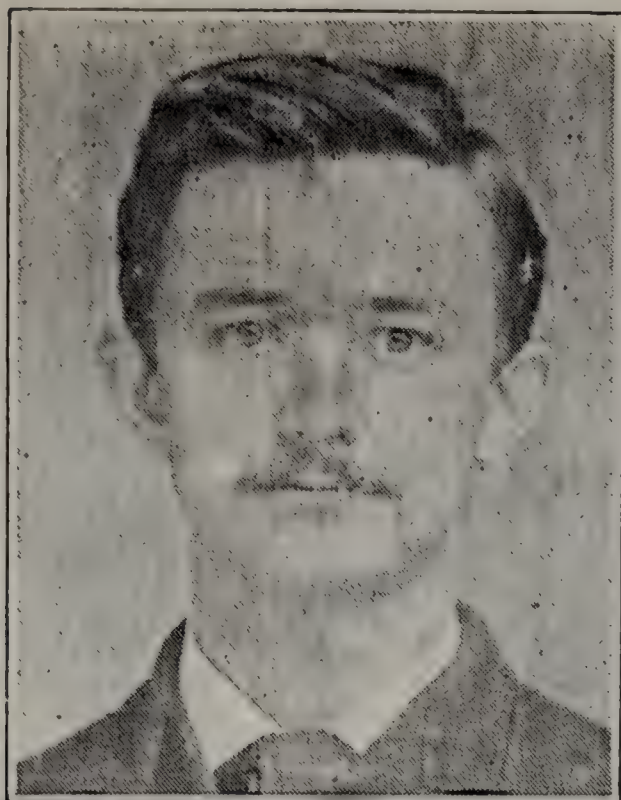
Their interest in the welfare of their relatives and friends, their sympathy, their untiring efforts for good, and most of all their upright example, make them live on. To me they can never seem dead. They have merely gone from here to another dwelling place.



This photograph was taken in John Parker's nursery.

When Grandfather was eighty years old he grew four rows of trees in his garden and proved by actual measurement that his trees were larger than any grown by his sons in the same year. A one year apple graft was six feet and three inches tall.

JIM AND MARY PARKER



JIM



MARY



Shortly after moving to White River



Standing between elephant ears and cannas with moon vines overhead at the new home at Tecumseh

JIM AND MARY PARKER



As I stand again on the doorstep
Where we stood in the long ago,
I can feel the touch of your hand in mine
As the thrill of life our hearts entwine
With a love that overflows.

And it seems that you still are near me
That your soul in communion with mine,
Speaks a message of love and beckons above
To a home of the pure, to a heaven of love
In a fairer, a better clime.

Jim, June 29, 1929.

JIM AND MARY PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

James Ervin Parker, the oldest son of the Parker family, was born in a big log house on Grand Mountain, March 25, 1870. Being the oldest boy in a large family much of the heavy work of the farm fell to Jim. Receiving his education in the public schools and in their home schools he began teaching in the public schools. He graduated from the Fort Smith Commercial College in 1893.

Mary Long was born near Paris, Illinois, May 25, 1871. Mary was the oldest daughter of William Harris Long, a jolly, good humored, red faced man of Scotch-Irish descent, and Lydia Jane (Thompson) Long, a kind, noble, cheerful, home-loving woman of Irish descent. In 1882 Mary moved with her parents to Neohso County, Kansas where the family lived for seven years a few miles northeast of Dennis. In 1889 the family moved to Madison County, Arkansas and located on a farm on Grand Mountain near Aurora. Mary later returned to Kansas where she finished her education while staying with her Uncle Jim Thompson. Returning to Arkansas she taught in the public schools.

Jim and Mary were married at the Long home July 12, 1894, the Reverend Jesse Guinn officiating.

The first two years together were spent in the "Weaner" house a short distance from the Parker home. They moved to Dutton, Arkansas. In 1901 they moved to Tecumseh, Oklahoma, where they remained three years. Then they moved to Shawnee, and lived there three years. At the end of that time they moved to Tecumseh where they bought a farm adjoining the city on the west side.

Jim and Mary had no children of their own, but the love of children inherent in the hearts of all good men and women not only made them greatly loved by their young relatives but overflowed to make more useful and happy the lives of the children of their neighbors also. In many ways they showed their interest in, and love for children.

At different times the following relatives have made their home with them while attending school in Tecumseh; Elmer Parker, Cleda Chancellor, Eula Parker, Velma, Vada and Lydia Long.

For over twenty years Mary taught a Sunday School class and the love and training given "her girls" so won their hearts that they came to her with their joys and to her for counsel in times of trouble. She was a real home maker and helped and encouraged her husband in every way and was always ready to assist in any good cause.

Jim was Sunday School superintendent in the M. E. church for ten years. He helped the A. and M. College of Stillwater, Oklahoma plan the boys' and girls' fruit club work and for ten years paid all the special premiums at both state fairs and published an annual bulletin giving a report of the work, in this way spending about \$3,000.00 to encourage boys and girls to learn to grow fruit in Oklahoma. He also originated and put over the idea of changing Washington's birthday from a day for war speeches to Home Improvement Day, showing our appreciation of the liberties we enjoy by helping to make this a better world in which to live.

In 1911 the 2,000,000 apple grafts, 300,000 budded apples and a planting of 50 bushel of apple seed estimate on June 1 as a 5,000,000 crop, made the nursery owned by Jim and Mary at Tecumseh the largest apple tree nursery in the world.

After an illness of several weeks Mary died, July 3, 1926. Although the home is well cared for by George and Thelma Price who live with him Jim is lonely in the big house in which he had expected to enjoy his declining years with Mary. Looking backward he feels that it would have been the part of wisdom to have worked less and taken more time to enjoy the pleasures of life. To be of service to others is commendable but to know how and to take time to laugh with those we love is the greater part of wisdom.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 1916

Top row; Oma Strain, Sadgie Strickland, Rosa Jordan, * * * * * Orpha Horton, * * * * * Gillie Cole, Mrs. Mary Parker.

2nd row; Naomi Teffertiller, Lizzie Boarman, Maura Debord, Marion Rosebush, Mary Bancroft, Velma Teffertiller, Julia Chrisy, Matilda Sharp.

3rd row; Lora Boarman, Goldie Jordan, Catherine Goodrich, Ola Carson, Willie Strickland.



OKLAHOMA 4-H FRUIT CLUB

Photographed at Farm Congress 1927. A few of the four to five thousand boys and girls that Jim helped to encourage in 4-H Fruit Club work.

JOHN AND LILA PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

Here's the home of John and Lila
Where their married life began,
Where the stork brought all their children
As the peaceful seasons ran.
Where the Ozark breezes blowing
Over regions broad and fair
Never found a home more pleasant
Full of love or free from care.
'Twas the home of John and Lila
Resting on the mountain grand
Where the stork brought all their children
John's moved since, you understand.



At the right John and Lila with their first baby. On the porch Mother Lester and Mother Parker. At the gate Father Lester and Father Parker.



Eula P. and Robert B. Hughes. Thomas Hunter and Clela May West.
Twila and Eldon Hughes

Eula, Chlora, Virgil, John
Lila and Clela.



John, Lila, Pauline, Virgil, Chlora, Ottis, Lester



Top row: Paul Lawrence, Eugene Parker, Estaline Lawrence, Dale Montgomery. Bottom row: Maxine Orendorff, Donald Montgomery.

JOHN AND LILA PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

John Monroe Parker was born February 6, 1872 at Aurora, Arkansas.

Lila Lucinda Lester was born February 24, 1875 at St. Paul, Arkansas. She is the daughter of Calvin Jones Lester of English and Irish descent and Nancy Elvira Burns of Scotch-Irish descent.

John and Lila were married December 31, 1896 at Aurora, Arkansas, where they lived for 23 years. After their marriage they moved close by grandmother and grandfather Parker on Grandmountain at Aurora. They lived in the same house until they moved to Fayetteville in 1919. In this house on Grandmountain their nine children were born; Eula Pearl Parker was born November 18, 1897, Chlora Naña Parker was born January 24, 1899, Virgil Eugene Parker was born October 9, 1900, Clela Mae Parker born April 19, 1902, Grace Francis Parker was born March 19, 1904. Grace was taken away by death June 28, 1905. On the 22 day of August, 1907 another girl was born, Altha Pauline Parker. Mary Ottis Parker was born April 21, 1909. Pansy Ellen Parker was born November 5, 1912. Lester Ervin Parker was born May 28, 1915.

John was in the nursery work with his father before his marriage and this is still his occupation. He now has his nursery at Fayetteville, Arkansas, where his home is.

At present all the children are married except Pansy and Lester.

Eula and her husband, Boyd Hughes are living at Los Angeles, California, they have two children: Twila Rosalyn and Eldon Parker Hughes.

Chlora and her husband, Cecil Lawrence have their home at Junction City, Kansas. They have three children: Paul Lavern, Dorothy Estalene and Delsa Arlene.

Virgil and his wife formerly Marie Feathers and their son Eugene live near Fayetteville.

Clela married June 16, 1929 to Thomas Hunter West of Los Angeles, California.

Pauline and her husband, Donald Orendorff and their daughter, Dorothy Maxine have their home at Fayetteville.

Ottis and her husband, Roy Montgomery and their two sons, Dale Lee and James Donald are at the present time in Clarks-ville, Arkansas.

Pansy and Lester are at home with their parents at Fayetteville.

LUM AND ELLA CASEY FAMILY HISTORY

You now see Lum and Ella,
And anywhere they're at
You'll find things up and coming
With Casey at the bat.



Lum and Ella Casey and children, Lora, Alma, Zola and Loren.



Top row: Denver and Lora Phelan,, Verda, Edna and Loren Casey, Zola and Clyde Evans. Bottom row: Geraldine and Donald Phelan, Lum and Ella Casey, Lee and Loy Evans.

LUM AND ELLA FAMILY HISTORY

William Columbus Casey and Clara Ella Parker were married at the old Grand Mountain home, Feb. 28, 1895. Their family consists of seven children, five girls and two boys, all at the present date are still living.

Lum was born in Limestone Valley, Newton County, Arkansas, February 29, 1872. He is of Irish descent from his father, of Tennessee, and English from his mother, Lucrea Woodward Casey, of Newton County, Arkansas.

Ella was born at Aurora, Arkansas, September 22, 1873. the fifth child and the third daughter of the Parker family.

The first two years of their married life was spent farming on Whorton Creek, Arkansas, then they moved to Grand Mountain. After four years there they bought a farm three miles south of Dutton, Arkansas which was about twenty miles

The first two years of their married life was spent farming and growing fruit, the larger part of their income being realized from products of the orchard. After eighteen years they sold the farm at Dutton and bought a farm near Greenland in Washington County, where they have lived for the past seven years.

The following table shows names and birthdays:

WILLIAM COLUMBUS CASEY	February 29, 1872
CLARA ELLA PARKER CASEY	September 22, 1873

CHILDREN

Mary Alma, December 28, 1895	Loren Emery, February 13, 1898
Zola May, June 28, 1899	Lora Alice, March 23, 1902
Dora Ester, October 30, 1906	Arlis Ross, January 13, 1909.
Verda Bell, February 16, 1911	

Out of the seven children, five of them are married.
Mary Alma Casey, married Sillus Hibbard, November 21, 1915

CHILDREN

Ottis, October 24, 1916	Arlis, August 22, 1918
Mary, August 10, 1920	Grace, August 10, 1920.
Fay, December 20, 1922	Lois, November 9, 1924
Helen, October 16, 1926	Paul, August 5, 1928

Zola May Casey, married Clyde Evans, Dec. 12, 1923.

CHILDREN

Loy, November 13, 1924	Lee, April 16, 1926
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Lora Alice Casey, married Denver Phelan, Dec. 23, 1923.

CHILDREN

Donald, October, 1924	Geraldine, July 20, 1927
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Loren Emery Casey, married Edna Gourd, Feb. 19, 1915.
Dora Ester Casey, married Buel Nickell, June 14, 1925.

CHILDREN

Maxine, July 6, 1926	Elmo, March 9, 1928
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LUM AND ELLA CASEY FAMILY HISTORY



Sillus and Alma Hibbard and children Ottis, Arliss, Mary, Grace, Fay, Lois, Helen and Earl.

Largest group of great grandchildren in the Parker Family.



Denver and Lora Phelan and children Donald and Geraldine.

West Fork, Arkansas, March 11, 1929

TO THE DEAR ONES WHOM I LOVE:

I would like to say a few words to all who read this book. I hope you will read and think that the right way to live is the best way. If we will shun bad company and strive for the right way we can find it. The wicked things of this life don't make true happiness. Bad habits are easy to get into but much harder to quit. I wish you all well, and hope you will stop and ask yourself the question "Where will I spend eternity?"

Death will soon come even if we live to be old, and the most important thing in life is to be prepared to meet God.

My dear mother died March 7th. It was hard to give her up but she has gone to a better place, where all of her troubles and sufferings are over, and while I live I am going to strive to prepare to meet her again.

God's word says "Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

With love to all I will close. May God save you by his grace.

ELLA CASEY.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



"The Weaner"

Along about 1880 when Eureka Springs was on the boom as a health resort it was discovered that the chalybeate springs on Grand Mountain had medical properties and many people came there to camp and drink the water. Pure mountain air and rest beneath the shade of the trees gave relief from chills and malaria fever, and many lame backed old men insisted that the water was a sovereign remedy for kidney troubles. This health resort boasted a two story hotel, a number of log houses, and tents placed under the trees in the summer time. All have vanished except the "Weaner," a house built by Billy Upton. This has been a very convenient place for the young folks of the Parker family to move into when they were first married and while they were being weaned from Pa and Ma and the old home. Jim, Ella, Zadah, Grace, and a number of the grandchildren have enjoyed the privilege of living in this home near Pa and Ma.

When the boys were discussing the question of whether or not the old home farm should be sold, one of them in presenting the reasons why it should not be sold but kept in the family as a place for homecomings and family rallies, said, "Who knows but this place may again have value as a health resort? The new highway passing within less than a mile of the spring will make it easy to reach by auto and it is possible that air ships may soon develop ease of travel to such an extent that merchants and professional men will build homes in just such places as this mountain top where they can enjoy pure air and good water."

Father Parker enjoyed his first ride in an airplane when he was eighty-three years of age and who knows but what his farm will one day be a landing field for airplanes?

MARION AND ZADAH OFFICER FAMILY HISTORY

She would marry for protection.
Nothing else would do for her,
"Safety First" has been her motto
So she wed an Officer.



Zadah, Nina, Loyd, Ethan, and Marion



Top row, left to right: Gertha, Ethan, Loyd and Iva; Center: Glen, Zadah, Elden, Marion, Loia, Leaman; Lower row: Imogene, Van, Loyd, and Opal.

MARION AND ZADA OFFICER FAMILY HISTORY

Marion Franklin Officer and Zadah Pearl Parker were married March 15, 1894.

Marion is the second son of Robert Hickman Officer, originally from Tennessee and Margaret Stots from Tenn.

Zadah is the fourth daughter of the Parker family.

Marion and Zadah have, most of their married life, owned and lived on their mountain farm about one mile from the Parker home, also about one mile from the Officer home on Coon Branch where Marion spent his boyhood days. They have stayed close to the home nest. Their family consists of three children. Two married sons, Ethan and Loyd, live on the mountain near the home where they were reared. Nina and her husband, Cammie Stroud, live in Springdale, Arkansas.

The following table shows names and birthdays:

Marion Franklin Officer, April 30, 1872.

Zadah Pearl Parker, September 8, 1875.

Clarence Ethan, June 12, 1895.

Nina Ester, July 31, 1899.

Author Loyd, August 22, 1901.

Ethan was married to Mary Gertha Phillips, of Whorton Creek. Ethan is the oldest grandchild in the Parker family.

Children

Glenn Lee, September 21, 1918.

Clarence Leman, February 29, 1920.

Opal Irene, May 18, 1922.

Van Loyd, January 24, 1924.

Lola Mary, May 29, 1927.

Nina was married to Cammie Stroud, August 14, 1919 and they have one child, Lova Ester, born July 20, 1929.

Loyd was married to Iva Cleo Ledbetter, October 29, 1924. Two children—Imogene Pearl, September 11, 1925; Eldon Eugene, September 11, 1927.

To The Loved Ones That Read This Book:

We have a beautiful world to live in, many things to enjoy and we should try to enjoy the many blessings that God gives us. Our life is short and we must try and live for a better world where happiness will never end, where sickness and death never come, where sad parting will come no more and we can meet our loved ones that are gone and be with them forever.

With love to all that read this,

ZADAH PEARL OFFICER

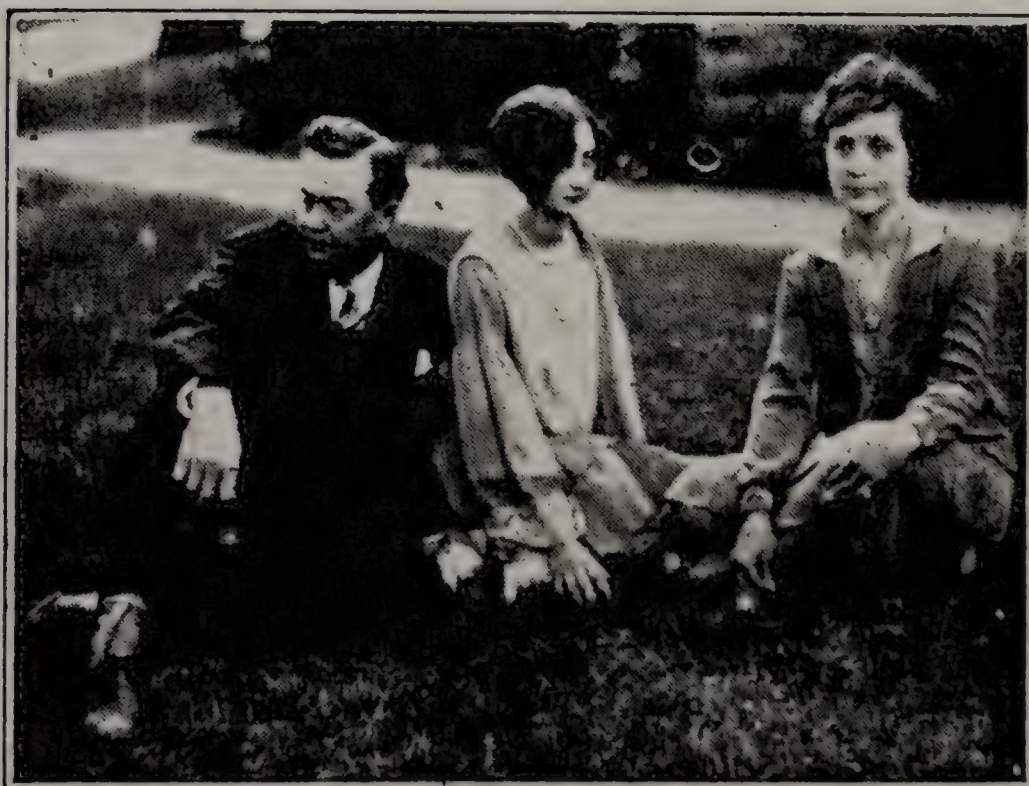
GEORGE AND DORA PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



"THE PINES"

318 East Lafayette Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Home of George Parker



George Thelma Dora
George Parker and Family

GEORGE AND DORA PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



When the weather is bad
And my spirit grows sad
And nature no longer beguiles
I open this book
And am cured by a look
At these wonderful honeymoon
smiles.

George Walter Parker was born at Aurora, Arkansas, Oct. 21, 1879, and was married to Dora Cornett on June 29th, 1905 at Dutton, Arkansas.

Dora Cornett was born at Dutton, Ark., on March 8th, 1885. She was the daughter of Arch Cornett and Mary Grigsby and is of Dutch and Irish descent.

In the fall of 1905 they moved to Fayetteville, Ark., and their only child, a daughter, Mary Thelma Parker was born on July 7, 1906.

In January 1907 they moved to Tahlequah, Okla., where George had established a nursery business. Remaining there about two years they moved back to Fayetteville, Ark., where they now live and where George has continued in the nursery business.

Their daughter Thelma after spending one year in Lindenwood College, a girls school, at St. Charles, Mo., entered the State University, at Fayetteville, Arkansas graduating with a B. S. H. E. degree and has been employed to teach Home economics in the schools at Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

After our home school days were over George taught a three months school near Aurora, Arkansas at \$18.00 per month. Then he walked to Springfield, Mo., and entered the Springfield Normal College working his way through for three months. Coming back home he spent a few months in a store. Then deciding to follow in his fathers footsteps he went back to work in the nursery, father sending him on a trip into Oklahoma to sell nursery stock. After spending a few weeks there he came back home and went to work in the nursery. Believing in the thoroughness of Home study and not satisfied with his limited education he enrolled with the International Correspondence Schools, of Scranton, Penn., for a complete business course which he completed at spare times while going ahead with work in the nursery. At different times he has taken home study courses and is enrolled in one at the present time.



Back: Velma, Vada, Lydia, Dorris and Verna.

Front: Walter, Velma and Mary.
Left: Mary, Walter, Velma and Verna.

Middle: right, The girls and their dog.

The children of W. H. and Lydia Long, Mary, Walter and Stella 1925.

WALTER AND MARY LONG FAMILY HISTORY

Walter Long and Mary Rachel Parker were married March 24, 1901 at the Parker home near Aurora by the Reverend Jesse Guinn who had previously officiated at the marriages of Zada, Jim, Ella, and John.

Their family consists of six girls; Velma, Verna, Vada, Lydia, Doris and Ruth.

Walter was born November 28, 1876 in Edgar County, Illinois. He is the only son of William H. Long of Scotch-Irish descent, born in Indiana, and Lydia Jane Long of Irish descent, born in Illinois.

Mary is next to the youngest daughter of the Parker family. She was born near Aurora, Arkansas, March 24, 1882.

The first four years of their married life were spent on a farm four miles east of Aurora where the two oldest children were born. In January, 1906, they moved to a farm about one mile northeast of Aurora, and about the same distance from the home of Mary's parents. This was the farm which Walter's parents bought from a Mr. Sewel when they moved from Neosha County, Kansas, 1889. On this farm, where the family still lives, the other four children were born.

The children were born on the following dates:

Velma Grace Long, February 3, 1902; Verna May Long, October 9, 1903; Vada Pearl Long, March 5, 1906; Lydia Rachel Long, October 15, 1907; Mary Doris Long, August 25, 1909; Stella Ruth Long, November 16, 1918.

Four of the girls, following the example of their father who has taught for thirty years, are teachers, Velma, after teaching a few years, during which time by patient home study she secured a first grade county teacher's certificate, went to Oklahoma where she lived with her Uncle Jim and Aunt Mary. She was married to James P. Townsend, December 27, 1927, and is now living in Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

Lydia, making her home with her Aunt Mary and Uncle Jim who gave her all the advantages they would have given their own child, graduated as salutatorian from the Tecumseh High School in 1927.

Vada graduated from the Huntsville High School in 1928, and Dorris graduated from the same institution in 1929. Vada and Lydia have just finished their first half year in the University of Arkansas.

As this annual shows, Vada, Lydia, and Dorris are graduates of their Uncle Jim's School of Typewriting.

In closing the members of this family wish to express their sincere appreciation for the educational aid given them by their Aunt Mary, not dead but gone before, and to Uncle Jim who is still spending time, energy and money in his effort to make the path of life easier and more enjoyable for young people.

ED AND GRACE PRICE FAMILY HISTORY



Ed and Grace, they married young,
Ed was an impatient waiter.

Ed and Grace as they appeared
Near their home a few years later.



Lola, Jessie, Ervin, Grace, Thelma, Ed.

Grandfather Parker, Grand-
mother Parker. Lola Price
standing, Baby Thelma Price,
Ruth Long, left; Jessie Price,
right.



ED AND GRACE PRICE FAMILY HISTORY

Here is another family history we want you to remember down thru the years of time, for as we grow older we are prone to forget some of the smaller incidents that make memories dearer.

James Edward Price, and Grace Alice Parker, were married August 15, 1903. Their happy family consists of six children, three boys and three girls, all of whom at the present day are still living.

Ed was born January 29, 1881, at McGuire, Ark. He is the oldest son of Jacob Rufus Price, of English descent, originally, from Virginia and Winnie Elizabeth Brurer, of Irish descent, originally from Missouri.

Grace is the youngest daughter of the Parker family, she was born October 17, 1883, at Aurora, Arkansas.

The union was a happy one. Their honeymoon and a few more moons were spent on Boston Mountain where Ed was teaching the New Home school. The first few years together were spent at Huntsville, Arkansas. There the first three children were born; Jacob Ervin Price, July 10, 1904. Ray Parker Price, November 16, 1906, and George Orville Price, June 28, 1909. From Huntsville they moved to Aurora, Ark., within two miles of Grand Mountain. After two years they moved to Whorton Creek, about seven miles from Aurora and to them the old farm still holds many dear memories.

It was on the farm that the first girl was born, Lola Pearl Price, August 20, 1914.

After eight years they abandoned the farm and moved again to Aurora, on Grand Mountain, to the house known as the "Weaner." They lived here for one year while Ed worked as a salesman, for Parker Bros. Nursery, located then at Greenland, Ark. To be closer to the work the family moved to Greenland. The boys also found work to do in the nursery during vacation time from school, for let it be said now, that, although the boys help was needed at home, the parents sacrificed to send them to school and gave them and the girls all the advantages for an education.

At Greenland the last two girls were born: Jessie Mildred Price, March 20, 1919, and Thelma Grace Price, March 30, 1923.

Ed and Grace now live at Fayetteville, Ark., where the girls are in school.

At the time of writing, Ray is the only boy in the Price family who is not married. Ervin married Nona Dot Grim, of Berryville, Ark., December 26, 1925, and they are now the proud parents of Billie Leicester Price, born September 13, 1926.

George married Thelma Osburn, of Winslow, Ark., October 13, 1928, and as will be seen, both she and Nona appear in the annual as graduates, of the Grand Mountain Typewriter School.

ELMER AND MILDRED PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Elmer, Mildred, Ercella, Edith, Arlis, Louis and Donna



Eight years later—Elmer, Mildred, Arlis, Ercella, Donna, Louis.

ELMER AND MILDRED PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Louis Elmer Parker and Mildred Flora McCurry were married December 22, 1907 at the home of Jim Guinn at Huntsville, Arkansas by the Reverend James Presley who later officiated at the wedding of Elmer's cousin Irvin E. Master and Mildred's sister Ella.

Elmer is the eleventh child and the youngest of the children now living. He was born November 15, 1885 near Aurora, Arkansas.

Mildred was born October 8, 1881 near Bear Creek Springs, Boone County, Arkansas. She is the fourth daughter of Laughlin McCurry of Irish descent, originally from Georgia, and Mary Jane Wagner of Dutch descent, originally from Tennessee.

The union was a happy one and the twenty-one years together have been spent at their first and only home near Aurora on Grand Mountain.

Their family consisted of three girls and two boys who were born on the following dates: Mary Ercella Parker, January 15, 1909; Donna Lucille Parker, May 13, 1910; Arlis Edwin Parker, May 9, 1912; Edith Mildred Parker, January 16, 1914; Louis Elmer Parker, January 23, 1916.

All of the children are living except Edith who died May 28, 1921 at the home of Elmer's cousin Nora Belle near Mount Vernon, Missouri where Elmer's family and his father and Mother had gone to attend a "Homecoming" of his father's old friends, schoolmates, and comrades of the Union Army. Edith became seriously ill at six o'clock p. m. one day and died at 2 o'clock p. m. the next day. She was brought home on the day of the "Homecoming" and was buried in the Aurora cemetery.

Ercella spent the fall of 1925 and the first half of 1926 with her Aunt Mollie Gimlin at Pomeroy, Washington. During this time she attended school, completing the eighth grade. At the same time Donna, staying with her Aunt Minnie Stotts at Boise, Idaho graduated from the eighth grade there. In her eighteenth year Ercella secured a teacher's license and taught her first term of school at Liberty, near Dutton, Arkansas. Keeping even pace with her sister, Donna taught her first public school at Henderson's Creek in the same year.

Ercella married Lem Jones of Huntsville, Arkansas, May 13, 1928. Donna married Hill Everts of Huntsville, Arkansas, September 16, 1928. At the time of this writing the boys are at home.

All four of the children are graduates of their Uncle Jim's Grand Mountain Typewriting School.

ED AND ROSA MIZE FAMILY HISTORY



Back; Opal, Marva, Myrl. Front; Everett, Rosa Mize, Edward, Ed Mize.

In this picture Ed had just advised his family to keep their eyes closed until the photographer gave the signal. Ed failed to awake.

The clouds that pass and the streams that flow,
The flowers that nod as the breezes blow,
Appeal in vain as Ed pays the price
Of carefully taking his own advice.



Ed Mize is a real school teacher. In this picture may be seen a class of older people at evening night school.

ED AND ROSA MIZE FAMILY HISTORY

My parents were less than a decadé younger than Ma and Pa Long. Mother and Ma were deeply devoted to each other from girlhood. Father and mother were married in Indiana, but located in Missouri. It was here in 1885 that I was born. When I had reached the age of nine months my mother died, leaving a request that I be placed in the home of her cousins, William and Lydia Long, for rearing and moulding into manhood. At this time Ma and Pa Long lived in Kansas. Shortly after 1889 they came to Grand Mountain, Arkansas for Ma's health which improved wonderfully. I see that home to-day in all of its jolly, glee and uprightness, surrounded with environments of industry, thrift and educational plans.

In the spring of 1898 typhoid fever caused a great change in our home. It was on March 10, 1898 that Ma departed this life.

Mary and Jim had been married for some time before this death. Walter and Stella were teachers, I being a lad of 13 years remained with Pa. He married Miss Laura Clark, a daughter of Cyrus and Jane Clark. They made a short move of twenty miles and located on a farm which was Pa's home until his death on April 19, 1921.

Throughout life his home, table, and aid was for those who happened along. He remained a jolly, upright soldier to the end. His chief motives were to make others happy.

In 1904-5 I attended school at Grannis, Arkansas, and began teaching in 1905—back in Madison County—Married Rosa White, who was born in 1887. In 1907 we located on a small farm which we bought from Pa and Laura. It was here and near here that our six children were born, Namely: Marva May 26, 1909, Married R. T. Hooper, April 3, 1929.

Opal March 12, 1911; Pearl, December 7, 1912 and died June 4, 1919; Myrl November 16, 1914; Edward, September 6, 1921; Evert, June 26, 1923.

The three girls, Edward and I are attending Teacher's Normal and training School at Wilberton.

ED MIZE

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



This is the home from which Jim Parker took Mary Long as his bride. Her brother Walter evened up the score by marrying Jim's sister Mary and it is now their home. This home is very dear because of old memories associated with it and it is here that the families met for final touches on manuscript for this book.

We find these verses from Jim to Mary written thirty-nine years ago.

THE NIGHT AT THE GATE

It was at the gate at her pretty home,
Where she came and lovingly met me
To tell me that she could not go with me
To the country singing as we did agree;
She sweetly says, "Mamma won't let me."

So we stood at the gate, for how could I go
So quickly away from her presence?
She ask me in, but I could not stay long,
Though her words to me were sweeter than song,
Ah! those words of my hoped-to-be lover.

The twilight deepening, the stars shining bright
And all Nature's beauty and stillness,
Seemed gently to say, "It is Love's coming day;"
But I could not stay, for I must go away,
So we parted with many good wishes.

Within my heart is a memory bright
The passing of time can not cover,
Springing up evermore with a hopeful delight.
When I think of the scenes of that happy night,
That night at the gate with my lover.

March 1890



THE PARKER FAMILY Home Coming Christmas 1904

All the family were in this picture. Father and Mother; Jim and Mary Parker; John and Lila Parker and their children; Eula, Chlora, Virgil, Clela and Grace. Lum and Ella Casey and their children; Alma, Zola, Loren and Lora; Marion and Zadah Officer and their children; Ethan, Nina, and Loyd; Ed and Grace Price and their first baby, Ervin; Walter and Mary Long and their children; Velma, and Verna; George Parker and Elmer Parker. This picture was taken before they were married.

Jim and Mary at this time lived at Tecumseh, Oklahoma and were the only ones that had wandered far away from the old home, but information that they were coming in home usually meant great times. Mother had the table loaded with good food and after dinner we met around the organ, sang the old songs, and quite often drifted into the old habits of recitation, speech making and debate. These were times of feasting and of love and laughter.



Some time during the day Father and his sons and sons-in-law would go to the Chalybeate Spring. There they threw for drinks. An old gum tree was the target and received the rocks thrown by the contestants. Only the gradually widening and deepening scar caused by the removal of the bark remains as evidence of those numerous contests. The rule was that when they first went to the spring the one making the best throw won the right to the first drink. After their thirst had been satisfactorily quenched the throwing was continued. The rule was changed and the one making the worst throw was compelled to drink a dipper of the mineral water. Now the contest became exciting for there is a limit to the enjoyment of even the best of water, and toward the end of the contest the drinking of a dipper of water was akin to torture. Father always stayed in the game and never said "boys let's quit." In some of our pictures which appear in the annual

are not so fat as we look, but have just returned from one of our favorite throwing matches.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



The last picture of Pa and Ma with all their boys and girls about them. August 26, 1928. There was not a death in the family for 42 years.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

Written by Jim Parker While Attending
School at the Fort Smith Commercial
College, May, 1893

This with histories in this annual makes a record of seven generations.

I desire in this Family History to give a short account of the birth, occupation, leading characteristics, etc., of my parents ancestors in such a way that both I and my dear ones at home may have a convenient record of the most important events in the lives of our kindred of long ago; and also to mention a few of the things that have tended to make up the joys and sorrows of the family of which I am a member.

Father traces his genealogy back to his grandfather, Thomas Parker, and his grandmother Sarah (Mullins) Parker, who resided in Tennessee. Father's parents John Parker and Martha (Cherry) Parker, were married in Cannon County Tennessee, and lived there until 1851 when they moved to Lawrence County Missouri. Grandmother died in 1857. She was a remarkably kind hearted and loving woman, and she had been a member of the Methodist Church for many years.

In 1859 grandfather married Nancy Hickman. He died a few months after this second marriage. This step-mother was a real friend and comfort to the children and was loved by all. She and the children made their home together until the children were married and had homes of their own.

Thus my father, Lewis Ervin Parker, and his sisters, Sarah Angeline and Emillie Elizabeth, and his brother, George Marion, were left orphans. They lived with their good step-mother on the old home-stead and father, being the oldest, managed the place and provided for the family in general. In the fall of 1865 the industrious young Parker, now twenty-two years of age, put in some good time courting, and on February 1st, 1866 he was married to the lovely daughter of Esq. Albright. This brings me to the point where I must mention a few of the leading events in the lives of

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



October 1921



George,

Elmer,

John,

Jim

August 26, 1928

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

MOTHER'S ANCESTORS

Henry Brown, mother's great grandfather on grandfather's side, died at the age of 104, and his wife at the age of 94. Mother's grandfather, Jacob Brown, was three fourths Dutch, and never spoke English until he was ten years old. He died at the age of 60, and his wife at about the same age. My grandfather, James Madison Albright, was born in Ohio, November 24th, 1820. My grandmother, Angeline (Dungan) Albright, was born in Harrison County Kentucky, July 6th, 1820. She was of Scotch descent. Grandfather and grandmother were married in Harrison County Kentucky, October, 17th, 1844. Their union was a happy one, blessed with ten children and lasted until 1881, when grandmother after having spent a pure christian life was called to her reward. They were both members of the Methodist Church.

The following tables show the names, dates of birth, and dates of death of both Grandfather Parker's family and of Grandfather Albright's family.

GRANDFATHER PARKER'S FAMILY

Name	Born	Died
JOHN PARKER	Tennessee	Lawrence, Mo.
MARTHA CHERRY	Tennessee	Lawrence, Mo.

CHILDREN

Lewis Ervin	Cannon County, Tenn. March 18, 1843	
Sarah Angeline	Cannon County, Tenn. December 16, 1844	Mt. Vernon, Mo. March 18, 1926.
Emillie Elizabeth	Cannon County, Tenn. October 2, 1847	Lawrence, Mo. 1885
George Marion	St. Francis County, Mo. December 18, 1850	Lawrence, Mo. 1878

ALL OF THE FAMILY WERE RELIGIOUS

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Mary,

Grace,

Zadah,

Ella

August 26, 1928

Ella, Zadah, Mary, Grace,
Pose the camery to face.
Each one hopes to stand the test
So she looks her very best,
As the artist weaves his spell,
Talks of birds and rings his bell.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

GRANDFATHER ALBRIGHT'S FAMILY

JAMES MAPLE	OHIO November 24, 1820	1906
ANGELINE	Harrison County, Kentucky July 6, 1820	Nov. 19, 1881

CHILDREN

Maryann	November 10, 1844	
Rachel Partlow	November 17, 1846	
James Thomas	April 9, 1849	
Malinda Caroline	April 9, 1850	
John Samuel	April 15, 1852	Leonard Tex., 1893
Matilda Ollie	October 10, 1854	
Sarah Francis	November 20, 1856	
Jesse Henry	September 29, 1858	
Jasper Newton	March 18, 1860	
Jacob Dugan	July 6, 1864	

The old stock of Parkers were large fair-complexioned people; and doubtless carried some of the vigorous blood of Ireland in their veins. The Albrights are a mingling of English, Dutch, and Scotch and are, as a general thing, a medium size, stout and dark complexioned people.

Both the Parkers and the Albrights have for many generations been strongly religiously inclined; and I am proud to say that so far as we have any knowledge, there has never been a criminal, or even a person who was not considered a first class citizen, among either the Parkers or the Albrights.

I shall now endeavor to mention some of the history of the family of which I am a member. Father and mother were married in Lawrence County, Missouri, February 1, 1866. They commenced life in a newly erected log house about three miles of Mount Vernon, Mo., on the old homestead. Father still managed the farm and cheered by my good mother accumulated property remarkably fast. In 1868 prompted chiefly by a desire to live close to his father-in-law, (Grandfather Albright having moved to Madison County, Arkansas in 1865), father put mother and their baby in the wagon, and with \$300 in money, five horses, and some other property started for Arkansas. They arrived at Grandfather Albright's near Aurora. In 1868 father gave \$300.00 for the place where, with the exception of the three years, (1876 to 1879), that he rented land in the Hawkins bottom, he has ever since resided.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Mary, Birdie Golden, Lydia, Mother, Father, Jim

"Oh! The ham bone am sweet,
And the chicken am good,
And the possum fat am very very fine,
But give, yes give me,
Oh how I wish you would,
That watermelon smiling on the vine."



Elmer

Mary

Grace

George

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

For several years father and mother were badly dissatisfied. Father tried raising grain, but the land was too poor to produce much, and for a long time he neglected putting out fruit trees as he thought he would surely sell out. But father has long since become satisfied, and has been doing everything possible to render the old home comfortable and happy.

The table following gives the names, and age, at which each joined the Methodist Church and date of death of each of the family.

PARKER FAMILY

Name	Born	Joined Church	Died
LEWIS ERVIN	Cannon Co., Tenn. March 18, 1843	35	
RACHEL PARTLOW	Carroll Co., Ky. November 17, 1846	12	
CHILDREN			
Rosaline Dovie	Lawrence Co., Mo. December 2, 1866	12	Aurora, Ark. Aug. 16, 1883
Dora Angeline	Aurora, Arkansas September 21, 1868	10	Aurora, Ark. Aug. 17, 1883
James Ervin	Aurora, Arkansas March 25, 1870	15	
John Monroe	Aurora, Arkansas February 6, 1872	13	
Clara Eleanor	Aurora, Arkansas September 22, 1873	12	
Zadah Pearl	Aurora, Arkansas September 8, 1875	10	
Arthur Eugene	Aurora, Arkansas November 22, 1877		Aurora, Ark. Sept. 21, 1879
George Walter	Aurora, Arkansas October 21, 1879		
Mary Rachel	Aurora, Arkansas March 24, 1882		
Grace Alice	Aurora, Arkansas October 17, 1883		
Lewis Elmer	Aurora, Arkansas November 13, 1885		
Willie	Aurora, Arkansas November 13, 1886		Aurora, Ark. Nov. 13, 1886

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Parker and Sons—1904



Elmer and George Parker



Home Coming 1927

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

There is one remarkable peculiarity about the family, and that is, in a family of twelve children we are mated two girls, and two boys, and so on all the way through; and as we were all of similar tastes, and nearly always in the same class at school, such a happy chance has added greatly to our pleasures.

Father and mother have always done all they could to educate us children. Mother gave us all a good start before we entered school. Dovie and Dora started to school in the Fifth Reader at the ages of 7 and 9 and were the best educated young ladies in the community when they died.

During the winter of 1890 and 1891, we had a home school. Punctually at 8 o'clock we sang a song and then work commenced in earnest. We four older ones acted as superintendent by turns; and we had our recitations and our recesses with perfect regularity. We all learned very fast and will always cherish the home school as one of the sweetest memories of childhood.

There are many more things I would like to write, and still more hidden in the depths of my heart too deep for pen to describe. The sweetest things of life can not be written; they must lie buried in the heart.

I must close this Family History,
Though I've poorly done my part,
And there is much more written
On the tablet of my heart;
But I can't describe the pleasures
Of a happy country home,
Nor the many cherished memories
That surround the dear hearth-stone.

Can't describe a happy family
Living in a clime of health,
Free from poverty's discomforts
And from all the snares of wealth.
Content with toiling in the sunshine
Honestly for what they eat,
Having just enough of sorrow
To make all their pleasures sweet.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

Whether in the fields and orchards
Toiling the whole day long,
Studying our school books of evenings,
Or joining in merry song,
There has been a vein of pleasure
Running ever through the strife,
And the beams of true affection
Brightened all the way of life.

Many trials, pains, and sorrows
We have all been called to bear,
Though they tinged our lives with sadness
Still they drove not to despair.
Death's cold hand has taken from us
Four that we tenderly loved,
And they have gone on before us
To a better home above.

First that went was little Arthur,
For his soul so pure and white
Made the angels long to waft him
To the realms of pure delight;
So the Father bid them bring him,
Gently in their arms of love,
And we'll reckon him the oldest
When the family meets above.



Dovie

Next that went was sister Dovie,
Lovely girl of sixteen years,
And the next day sister Dora
Left this world of toils and tears.
Nine days suffered they with fever,
Ere death came relief to give,
And their pure souls went to Heaven
Happy evermore to live.



Dora

Together had they sweetly prattled
At their dear mother's knee,
Together learned from her the lessons
Of industry and purity;
Together studied in their schoolbooks,
Joined in merry, childish play,
Together viewed life's wond'rous pathway,
And together knelt to pray.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY

Together they while yet but children
Gave their hearts unto the Lord,
And were faithful, earnest Christians
Honoring e'er His precious word;
And when the Master sent for Dovie,
Dora too was called away,
And we laid them in one coffin
Together in the silent grave.

Next that went was darling Willie,
But a baby four hours old:—
Though he tarried not long with us
Ere his pure and sinless soul
Was carried by angels to Heaven
On their balmy wings of love,
Yet we'll never part from Willie
When we all shall meet above.

Arthur, Dovie, Dora, Willie,
All are angels blest above,
Praising e'er their great Redeemer,
Happy in His wond'rous love;
And from Heaven's pearly portals,
They look down upon us here,
Beckoning us to come unto them
In their home so bright and fair.

O, dear parents, brothers, sisters!
Let us serve our blessed Lord,
Gladly labor in His vineyard,
Honoring e'er His precious word,
Let us e'er be kind and loving,
Shun the downward paths of sin,
Strive by Jesus's grace and mercy
All the joys of Heaven to win.

Merciful and precious Saviour,
Let none of us go astray,
Lead us ever by Thy spirit
In the straight and narrow way;
And when all our trials are over,
Ransomed by Thy wond'rous love,
May we make one happy family
In our heavenly home above!

May 27, 1893



Upper view: Mrs. Mary Parker with her Sunday School class, 1922

Center: Uncle Jim and Aunt Ret-tie Thompson, Dennis, Kansas, with their family about them. Mary lived with Uncle Jim while attending school.

Lower: Mary Long and Birdie Thompson at time of gradua'ing from Dennis, Kansas, school 1892.

MEMORIES OF MY AUNT MARY PARKER

By her loving niece, Lydia Long

I have many sweet memories of Aunt Mary as everyone who knew her must have. During the five years I was with her I came to know, admire, and love her more than anyone can ever know for she was truly a wonderful woman.

In her Sunday School class she had more interest and the attendance was better than that in any other class. Her very manner inspired confidence and her class of girls never hesitated to ask her any question or tell her anything, because they knew that they would not be misunderstood.

She was greatly interested in flowers and always had a great many beautiful ones. Early in the morning before the dew was gone she liked to go out and see what new beauties had opened during the night.

Through her efforts her house was a real home and in it could nearly always be found young people for she seemed so young and was so interested in their affairs that they were eager to come, and they knew that they would be welcomed at any time. Then, too, she had pets—a cat or a dog, sometimes both—for she was very fond of them and they really seemed to be remarkably intelligent and their many tricks and pranks afforded much amusement.

Aunt Mary was one of the best cooks to be found anywhere. Her cooking received unlimited praise from the many people who were guests and her meals were deserving of the praise because they were delicious.

Aunt Mary was very thoughtful of others. I remember when I was sick how kind she was, coming to tell me some amusing incident, bringing me something special to eat, and getting something new as a surprise, to keep me from being lonesome. She was the most unselfish person I have ever known, always doing some kind deed for others.

Because her own life furnished such a splendid example of true Christian living she had great influence in the community. She made many friends and these were lasting friendships. Her true, frank, outspoken, cheerful, sympathetic nature caused her to be respected and loved by all. When she passed on a place in all our hearts, which can never be filled by anyone, was left empty except for our many sweet memories of her.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Mother believed in raising plenty of chickens. At our home comings the table was abundantly supplied with fried chicken.



Uncle Felix and Aunt Angeline Hammer and family.

Top row: Lewis Cross, Alma Cross, Nora Bell, Nina Colthar, Clara Barker Gladys Bell:

Second row: Auris Cross, Naomi Cross, Angeline Hammer, Felix Hammer and Jayne Ruth Bell, Clara Bell, Nina Cross.

The community of Mount Vernon, Missouri is the home of the Hammer family. They have spent most of their days there. Felix Hammer was a Methodist preacher and in his active days as a circuit rider of course, lived at other places.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

To Those Who Love Me and May Pass This Way.

These special messages by Father, Bothers and Sisters were written at my request. Mother was much interested in our school and in father's message, though not able to write her own letter. Had she done so it would have been very much like Father's letter, and so it seemed fitting to electrotypes a closing paragraph of one of her letters. Thus, we have a message from mother in her own handwriting.

I am alone and have no blood descendants. Only through material things accomplished or thoughts planted in the minds of others may I hope to live on in this world; and it makes me feel that just to fill our little place in the world and do right as we see the right should be our aim. To do the duties nearest to us should employ our time. Kindness, love and helpfulness to kinfolks and neighbors is the religion that endures. We should strive to face age conscious that for the joys of our youth provided by those who came before, we have given back to the world full measure. Always should we bear in mind that we are but a tiny speck in the universe and be patient and tolerant of the misfortunes and weakness of those about us. It is written in the hearts of good men and women that to give others joy brings us joy. To love, brings love in return.

Variety through all the realm of nature is God's law. In all the world there are no two people who look exactly alike. It is equally true that there are no two alike in thought or mental ability. New varieties of fruits and flowers are constantly being produced in the world and men are constantly changing in their relation towards each other. Yet, through it all there seems to pervade a consciousness of immortality. Faith like that of father's and mother's proven by the lives of millions on top of millions of people of varying religious beliefs is the one unanswerable proof that God is, and that we may by living in harmony with the light is within us, bring His spirit into a conscious nearness to us. For some this means prayer, for many, many others it means doing the practical duties and labors of the world. To labor for those we love is life's greatest opportunity. Honest present toil whether of the brain, the heart or the hand is the only true greatness, the only true measure by which to estimate the worth of mortal man. Do the duties nearest to you and for which your talents seem to fit you. Be not envious of others, but strive to increase your own physical, mental and spiritual ability and thus make a better friend and helper of your fellow man.

Have faith in yourself, faith in God and faith in the times in which you live. Education in churches and schools is making progress. The outcry against the times in which we live is not an evidence of increasing evil but the awakened consciousness of the world demanding that we all be better men and better women. Serve God by serving your fellow man.

Some way, somehow, through the mysteries of life and love and longing may the spirits of loved ones who have gone before be with us and guide us.

Love to all,

JIM PARKER.

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

This closing paragraph from one of her letters carries the thought which we believe she would like to pass on; To those who love her and may pass this way.

Let's be true to
God let come what
will he is our friend
Love to all good by
L E + Rachel Parker

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Aurora, Arkansas,
October 16, 1929.

TO THOSE WHO LOVE ME

If I had all my children and grandchildren and my great grandchildren together, I would say, live a good pure life, try to help others that need help. Be like the good Samaritan. Be truthful, be honest and have all the noble qualities about you that you can. Don't do anything that you would be ashamed of now or ever. I see some young men that get started off wrong partaking of bad habits and it wrecks them. I have seen some talented young men make a failure and I would think what a pity. Make an aim in life and you won't miss it for there is only one life here and let us make the best of it that we can. God has told us of his blessings. He says "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." Be always ready to resist temptation.

Now I want to say some more. There is a heaven to gain or to lose. If we lose heaven we lose all. If we gain heaven we have gained all. Let us try to live that pure life that we might have a home in heaven. Some of my great grandchildren will never see me here. If they want to find me, tell them to go to heaven and I think they will find me there. Oh! children you can't afford to miss heaven. It costs no money. Trust in God, He is the Savior. I feel that I have told you things of great value worth more than money.

I will have to close. I am 85 years old and I don't think I will be here long, so goodbye to you all, I am

Your father, grandfather and great grandfather,

LEWIS E. PARKER.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Looking across the mountains from the farm on which John Parker built his first home. This farm joins father's farm on the East side. The houses were about a quarter of a mile apart but we were rather a loud mouthed bunch and it was possible to stand on the porches and call "Oh Yes! Oh Yes! Come into Court!"

The mountain is steep enough that it took a carefully surveyed winding road to climb it. The road as built makes good coasting for an automobile going down hill and a mighty careful pull to climb the mountain. In the early days when we went to Aurora or to church or picnics we walked up the steep places to lighten the load for the team.

MY FIRST TRIP WITH MY FATHER PEDDLING APPLES

BY JOHN PARKER

I was eleven or twelve years old when father let me go with him to Fayetteville, Arkansas, a distance of about thirty miles. Father was driving a good team and had forty bushels of apples in the wagon. I held the team while Father solicited business among the residents of the city. Our load was sold out in about one and a half days and brought about fifty dollars cash. This represented quite a good fortune in the good old days when we peddled apples. We started home as soon as the apples were sold and drove east about fifteen miles to a Mr. Neeley's house. Supper was late that night, Mrs. Neeley was a real good cook, and Father had done a hard days work. At about eight o'clock the good lady said, "Come in to supper." When the biscuits were passed from the far end of a seven foot table Father very gently lifted a biscuit which was about the size of a silver dollar. In fact, just about one bite for a hungry man. Father very timidly said, "Pass the bread, please," about every minute for ten or twelve times. Finally he decided he would stock up on bread and removed three of those small delicious morsels. As the plate started back to the far end of the table some of the nine children took the last one and just then one of the kids cried out, "Ma I want some bread." The good mother then replied "There is no more." Father began to get red and you could see regretted laying in his supply when bread was so scarce. Anyway it was only a matter of three bites to destroy the evidence, so Father ate the bread. I left the table and got in a big room all by myself where I could roll and laugh.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Fayetteville, Arkansas,
March 31, 1929.

To The Ones Nearest and Dearest to Me:

I want to leave a testimony to be printed in brother Jim's typewriter annual.

I am going back more than 40 years to the time when our good parents said "You children go in the North room and have school at home." We had a real school at home and we learned more in that three months than in any school we had attended. It may seem strange to the children of this age that the average well-educated person of the time I am writing about attended school less than three months in the year.

My heart is filled with love when I think of my mother singing songs of cheer while spinning and weaving, working long hours in the night in order to make clothes for all. The great thought is that she was supremely happy and always had a kind word for all of the children. Never forgetting to impress on us "Seek first the kingdom of Heaven and the rest will be added."

I remember father making shoes to keep our feet warm and now as I look back over the good old days of long ago I am inclined to believe that with all their hardships people were just a little better and fully as happy as they are now.

When brother Jim was a boy he had great ideas. As I think of the great work he has done in helping a score or more of bright young children to prepare for the future by encouraging them to push forward in his special private typewriter class and preparing themselves for a better and more useful life, I feel that there is few men doing more good for humanity than brother Jim.

JOHN M. PARKER

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



George, Jim and John Parker and C. M. Wall

Car load of nursery stock from Jim Parker's nursery at Dutton, Arkansas delivered at Tecumseh, Oklahoma in 1902. John, George and C. M. Wall was on the delivery yard to help get the money. About 200 orders amounting to something like \$1,500.00 was in this delivery. Seventy-five per cent of the value of nursery stock was in one year old apple trees.



This is a common power sprayer with truck and spray connections especially made under Jim's direction now being used to spray five rows of nursery stock at one time.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

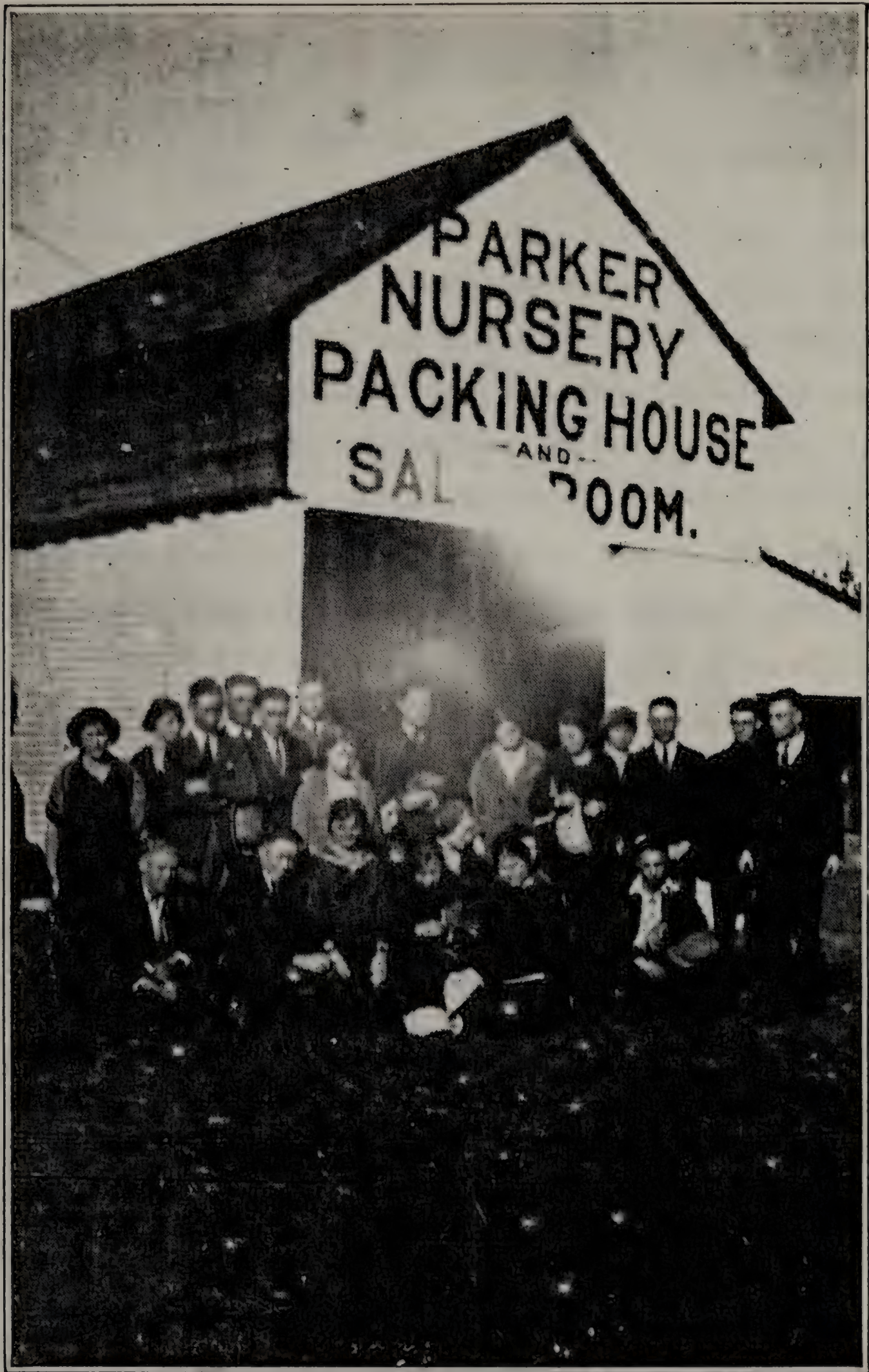
Fayetteville, Arkansas,
March 31, 1929.

To Those Who Love Me And Pass My Way:

All I can tell you is coined from my experience in life. The first thing I wish to say is not to take too much advice from anyone. Don't listen to what I tell you or to anyone else, but live true to your ideals of life. Be true to yourself and live up to the ideals of life as God enables you to see the right. If you wish to be happy, live the simple life. I think there is more unhappiness and more failures caused in life by the preachment to mediocre people that they may accomplish big things in the world than by anything else; but there is one thing that we can do, we can fill the sphere of life for which we are fitted. If you only have one talent, you can make the best of it, but if you come into life with one talent and try to accomplish what the fellow does who has ten talents, you will be very unhappy and will be a failure. You may not be able to gain riches or greatness, but we all can live the simple life, clean, pure and true to our ideals and this will bring as much happiness as we can hope for in this world.

Sincerely,

GEORGE PARKER



High School students at Tecumseh, Oklahoma visiting Jim Parker to learn something about how nursery stock is grown, graded, and packed for shipment. About a million trees and plants are shipped from this nursery each year.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Aurora, Arkansas
March 23, 1929

Dear Ones who may read this:

There are many important things in life, honesty, industry, education, and other things helpful to our living. But to me the most important thing is to be prepared for eternity. How I wish I could put a thought here that would help someone to seek the Lord. I know from my life's experience that all else is so little compared with the love of God. "He that loveth not, knoweth not God for God is love." We children have much to be thankful for that our parents loved and served God, and set us an example of pure holy living all summed up in one word, Love. When I was a child, mother quoted a verse which impressed me. "Methinks I heard some children say, I never heard my parents pray." Children give your hearts to the Lord while young, before they are hardened by sin. "Put not your trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who giveth us all things richly to enjoy." "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." The message I am trying to give is, "Get right with God." Live so close you will feel His presence daily, and you will have love, joy, and peace in your hearts and the assurance of a home in heaven.

With a heart of Love,
MARY LONG.

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Standing: Jim Parker, George Price, Thelma Price, Goldie Russell, Wash Lavis and Otto Phillips.

Sitting: Ernest Reeves, Martin Regan, Philip McElvain, Wesley Brock and Schley Reeves.

July, 1929



Field workers photographed during the budding season, summer of 1927
Both of the above photographs were taken in the yard at Jim Parke home. Seldom less than ten and often twenty to thirty men work in the nursery fields. One stenographer regularly and help increased to four during busy seasons make up office force.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Written without thought of publication

By Grace Price

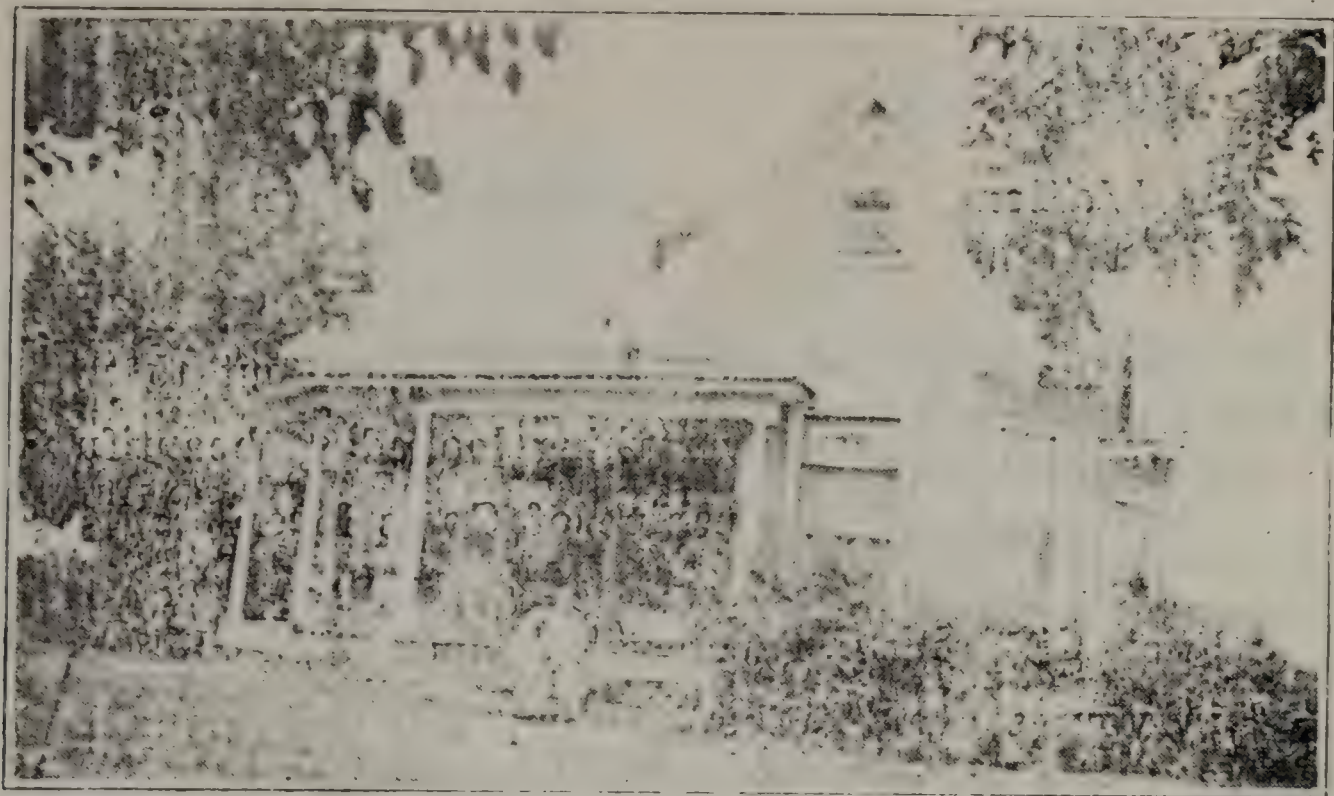
Just as the bright rays of sunshine burst out to warm the cold dreary earth and everything looked so beautiful, it flooded my soul with the sunshine of God's love.

Oh! how different life seems when you get the Holy Light of God in your soul. When the sun is hidden behind the clouds and all the world seems cold and dreary, it brings to me a picture of lives that have once seen the light of God's love and felt the touch of His loving spirit in their hearts and then have let the cares of the sinful world take the love and joy out of their hearts and dwarf their spiritual life which is more wonderful than anything else. It makes us love everybody and see the beautiful side of life that God has prepared for us to enjoy.

I pray that I may have light for each day and that I might lead others from darkness to light, that I may comfort and cheer some lonely sin-sick soul along life's way, and as the Christmas season draws near let us make it a loving service to our blessed Saviour who died that we might live. Let us serve as best we can with the Christ like spirit dwelling within.

"Silver and gold I have none but such
as I have I give unto thee"

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



Here is the home that Elmer built for Mildred before they were married. He bought the land from father. He is still improving and will likely remain here close to the memories of childhood.



Just a field of one year apple trees being topped to grow two year trees. In growing apple trees the Parkers have been leaders for many years.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Aurora, Arkansas
May 26, 1929.

Mr. Jim Parker,
Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Dear Brother:

Instead of writing my letter as you requested. "To those who love me and may pass this way," I feel that I can better express my message by writing my letter direct to you.

As I wrote the words "Dear Brother," it occurred to me that now you seem to me more like a father. You remember Thursday at the funeral of our dear father, Lee McElhaney who conducted the funeral services said "I wonder who will take up the good work your father has left off." We all feel that you will carry on his good works. Our father's kindness here, on the earth shall be perpetuated through his oldest son, Jim.

When I was at your home you asked me if I thought Arlis would study typing if you sent a new typewriter home. I assured you that I'd take the responsibility to see that he did. I had no idea of the good you were beginning to accomplish. Your idea grew into a big thing for your nephews and neices. They all feel like Uncle Jim is the finest uncle any one ever had, and I think so myself.

Mildred and I are more appreciative of the interest you are taking in our four children in an educational way than we have words to express. We hope that you may live long and continue the good deeds you are doing each day for the many people with whom you come in contact. In my estimation, Jim, you are one of the broadest minded men I have ever met.

I do hope my brothers and sisters will continue their home comings. I wish we could keep the old home place for a few years at least as undivided property for a place to hold family reunions. I feel that this will keep us bound together more closely, and that it would be pleasing to Father and Mother.

The prayer in my heart is that we will be one unbroken family in Heaven.

With love,

Your Brother,

ELMER PARKER.

PETS



Buster, the dog, and Fritz, the cat, were two of the many pets of Jim and Mary. Besides being nicer than usual for dogs and cats to be, these had several individual attainments.

Fritz played hide-and-seek with all the enjoyment and care for the rules that a child would have had. He would come into the kitchen where Mary was and "Meow, meow." Then he would dash into some other part of the house and hide. Once he hid in a roll of rugs and the detective abilities of both Mary and Jim were

exhausted before he was found. He would wait when found until they had time to hide before moving. Then he would go hunt them.

Buster would "Bow-wow-wow" sharply meaning "Fritz, let's play tag," or Fritz would "Mew, mew" meaning the same thing. Then the fun began. Jim had Buster trained to pretend that he was asleep.

Tuff, a little black dog that they moved with them from Grand Mountain to White River, was trained so that Mary could carry him under her arm, point out a chicken she wanted, and say "Get it, Tuff," and no difference how many chickens there were Tuff always got the right one. When Jim was looking for hogs on the mountain side Tuff rode behind him on the mule. If told to get a certain hog he had that hog by the leg mighty quick.

Jack, another of their pets, would sit in the position shown in the picture with his paws demurely folded while grace was returned at the table. He would not whine if not fed during the entire meal, but would sit quietly. When bedtime came he would come and sit before Mary asking to be taken to his box bed and covered with a blanket for he had little hair and appreciated the warmth of his blanket.



As far back as memory goes the only time a preacher was ever denied the hospitality of a Parker home was when a Methodist presiding elder had preached what he thought was a great sermon on parenthood and used Abraham as his Bible illustration. He also told the oft repeated dog story with the usual insinuation that the woman with a dog on her lap had dodged the responsibility of motherhood and should be nursing a child instead of a dog. There were six good women in the congregation who had no children.

Just before the next quarterly conference the pastor of the church asked Jim to entertain the elder. He was answered, "will you repeat a message to him exactly as I give it to you?" And on the preacher's promising that he would he was told, "Tell him he is not welcome in my home. No man who has little enough sense to offer Abraham who sent his own child into the wilderness to starve as a sample father, and who is ignorant and unkind enough to hurt the feelings of a good woman with contemptible rot like that dog story will be permitted at my table to enjoy the food prepared by my wife."

Jack

PARKER FAMILY HISTORY



W. H. Long with his children Walter, Cora, Mary and Ed about him. This is the home where Jim and Mary lived near Dutton, Arkansas and was the home of Father Long after they moved to Oklahoma.



Jim and Mary Parker

Sitting around the fireplace by a big wood fire is something dear to the memory of all the family. In father's home there was a big fireplace that would take four foot logs. It was a wonderful place. There it was that Mother baked the corn dodgers and roasted potatoes were scratched out of the hot embers. A twenty foot square hewed log house with a side room for a kitchen was our first home and it was as Riley says "back there where we were so happy and so poor" Two tall bedsteads and two trundle beds which were pushed under the large beds during the day time and the logs blazing in the fireplace made comfort in the coldest night that ever came. Physical comfort when we are just near enough to poverty to appreciate it is the best way to enjoy riches.

STORIES AS REMEMBERED BY VADA LONG

WHEN GRANDFATHER WENT TO CHURCH BUT DID NOT GO IN

One pleasant Sunday morning in the long ago Grandfather and Grandmother Parker set off for church. With them were Grandfather's sister Angeline and her husband, Felix Hammer, who had recently come to Ark. As they went Grandfather began telling his brother-in-law of the neighbors likely to be seen there. Among those mentioned was one whose chief claim to distinction was his enormous feet. Before going into the church house Grandfather led Uncle Felix to where he could get a good view of this individual. While doing this he was himself overcome by the sight of Mr. Herriman's "understanding." He made a futile attempt to regain his composure so that he could enter with the others. After they went in he repaired to the yard where he relieved himself by laughing unrestrainedly. Then trying to put on the correct church expression he again approached the door. Once more the recollection of those feet proved too much for his sense of the ludicrous and he returned to the yard. Thus he continued through the entire service, alternately going to the door and returning to the yard, but he was never able to enter the building.

In after years he could not tell this story without laughing heartily at the memory of those huge feet.

WHEN GRANDMOTHER EVENED THE SCORE

When Grandmother was a young girl, she and her sister Mary Ann generally did the washing for the family. One cold autumn day they took the clothes to a large spring quite a distance from the house. As they labored over the wash a neighbor boy came by and began making himself disagreeable. After trying their patience in various ways he stood on one of the rails which covered the spring. This made it extremely difficult for them to get water, and Grandmother, taking advantage of his position, cautiously turned the rail over, plunging him into the spring. As he went dripping up the hill she felt that an old score had been satisfactorily settled.

A FEW REMEMBRANCES OF MY HOME IN THE HILLS

BY GEORGE PARKER

Mingled with memories of hard work and disappointments are many pleasant thoughts that are indelibly written on my mind that are recalled more often as the years go by.

Mother reading the family Bible to us children around the fireside before bed time.

The basket of rosy checked, fragrant, genuinely good apples that we would bring from the cellar, where there was always an ample supply, and ate around the fireside.

The real treat, occasionally, in the Winter time of a meal consisting of cold sweet milk and good corn bread Mother would bake in the oven on the fire place.

Father playing a tune on the old Seth Thomas Clock which has been in the family more than one hundred years.

Our two mile walk down the mountain to the district school in the valley, gathering wild fruits and flowers to and fro.

Watching Mother spin, card wool, and weave cloth, to make blankets, socks and clothes.

My trip when a small boy to the old carding mill to take our wool to be carded in rolls ready for spinning. This mill was run by a horse on a tread wheel walking all the time and never getting anywhere. This mill was recently bought by Henry Ford to add to his collection of old relics.

Trips with a turn of corn on a bare backed horse to the water mill.

Cool refreshing drinks out of a dipper gourd from a bubbling mountain spring.

Watching lye bucket at the Ash hopper to see that it did not run over while Mother was making soap.

Father mending our shoes on wooden lasts using wooden pegs.

Blowing bladders (not bubbles) at hog killing time, father filling the smoke house with good hams and bacon.

How sweet the remembrances, 'lasses making time' when we would fill a large wooden barrel with good sorghum molasses to last us throughout the year.

Fodder pullin' time, if you have never gone out early in the morning to a corn field, and smelled the sweet fragrance of the morning dew and the freshly pulled fodder you have missed a lot of life.

As we looked at the time of the meeting to celebrate a wedding anniversary when the announcement was made that in-laws, grandchildren and neighbors were not to come and that the day was for father and mother and we brothers and sisters only. It was a great day for all of us.



REMEMBRANCES

The pleading tone in father's voice as he knelt alone at night in the orchard to pray. Baby Arthur was sick and he was taking his troubles to the Heavenly Father. In those times there was Bible reading, song, and prayer about the fireside in the home.

The time the organ agent stayed all night in the home and sold us the organ. The wonderful music it made mingling with our voices. I think it was the first organ I had ever heard. Father borrowed part or possibly all of the money to pay for it. At about this time other neighbors bought organs and there was soon community singing in the homes. There was not to my knowledge a musical instrument in any of the country church or school houses at that time. The music leader always carried a tuning fork from which he found the key and said "take the sound" and with "down, left, right, sing" our voices rang out in perfect time and harmony seldom equaled now by any of the choirs trained with a musical instrument.

Though we were just common country folks we had plenty of food and clothing for comfort and were in the front in our community in education. Once and only once do I remember an approach to economy in the way of food. We were out of bacon and father thought of saving a little on the meat bill. At the dinner table not a word was said, but tears came in mother's eyes and immediately after dinner father straddled Old Bill, the big bay stallion, went to Aurora and brought back a supply of meat.

The time I chopped a wagon load of stove wood and Pa hauled it to Aurora and sold it for twenty-five cents which he gave me as my spending money for the Fourth of July. I never spent as much as \$1.00 at any picnic before I was married. I don't think the family ever made as much as \$300 above a living in any one year. Yet with it all, there was comfort, love and happiness and the urge of life that makes men and women ambitious.

And then, there is that outstanding day in January 1929, our last day of noise, love and laughter together with all of us children joining in songs during the day and father and mother enjoying it as they did in olden times; and after a good dinner together and the time was approaching when we should leave, brother Elmer with the assumed dignity which we older boys used to practice 40 years ago, appointed himself chairman and called the house to order. There were speeches and recitations as of old interspersed with much song, and towards the end of our program father stood up and made a rousing speech. And we gathered around mother's rocking chair in the adjoining room and she recited poems learned in her girlhood days. Then the songs merged towards religious sentiment and there were prayers outspoken and prayers in the hearts of all and the final song "God be with you till we meet again." All of us knowing at the time that it was perhaps our last joyous meeting, and even so it was. For the next time we met it was at mother's bedside and she was very sick. And again our next meeting was about father's bedside and on May 22nd, he passed on to join mother and we laid him by her side in the McBroom grave yard. Strange and very strange it seems that I, with the memories of boyhood, home and love about me, am, as the oldest child looked to by my brothers and sisters as the head of the family now.

Homes like father's and mother's home, families of children struggling upward as we struggled upward are evidences that God still walks the earth though his steps some times seem far between and it is hard, very hard some times to feel his conscious presence. And so I say goodbye, and as we sang together on that last joyous day "God be with you till we meet again."

JIM PARKER.



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N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

